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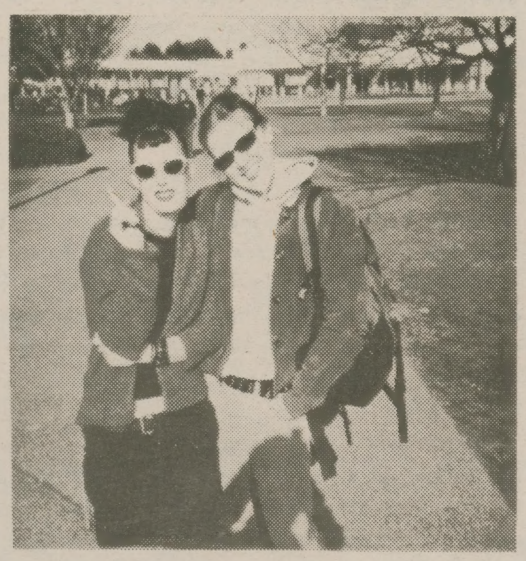
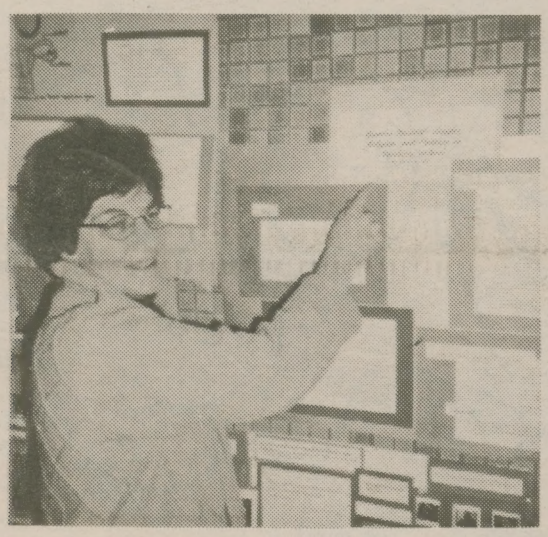
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY





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Finance platforms give students clear choice

by Darren Stewart

Candidates for finance director staked opposing claims on money issues in this year's campaigns and will likely fight the most interesting battle at the polls.

Voters will choose between incumbent Jonas Gifford, who dealt directly with fallout from the huge cash crisis and advocates a slow steady fiscal recovery, and Dallas Henault, the rookie challenger who vows to reopen Vertigo and will consider corporate partners in the SUB to quickly boost coffers. Both said they hope students will speak with their ballots about what kind of society they'd like to see next year.

Gifford was a director at large for two years before he was elected as director of finance last year and attended finance committee meetings for three years running. He said he's skeptical that fresh and flashy ideas are the solution to the society's cash woes.

"I don't have any magic bullet solutions," he said. "I don't believe they exist. It's not a sexy campaign but a responsible campaign. I don't want to waste another cent of student's money."

Gifford said the biggest question he's faced while campaigning is "what happened to the $300,000?"

"I'm not blaming anybody who is concerned about this," he said. "Students are very interested to know what happened. Unfortunately we can't get into the details."

An external audit last September revealed that the UVSS mismanaged hundreds of thousands of dollars in the previous year's operating budget. An ongoing police investigation focussing on a former SUB employee has muzzled this year's society regarding the details of the crisis.

"Most students understand that we inherited this problem," said Gifford.

Gifford has since restructured the financial framework so the director of finance takes on financial scrutiny that the general manager used be responsible for.

"Now it's more up to the director of finance to do things properly," he said.

He said the board should have worked this way for years. Gifford added that with its $8.5 million operation, the UVSS is one of the more complex student unions in Canada.

"I'm proud to have this post, but it comes with a lot of responsibilities, a lot of difficulties."

Henault said he feels ready to take on the task of finance director and is looking for voters to give him a chance.

"I see it as a great challenge," he said. "I have the same knowledge that a lot of people going into this job in previous years have had."

He said he doesn't blame this year's board for the cash woes but notes that many of the board members sat on the previous year's board as directors at large. While he admits he has attended only one finance committee meeting in his life, he said he has the background for the job.

Henault is an economics major and treasurer for the UVic Young Republicans club. He also did a work experience placement in an investment office in Kelowna for a week and worked on the books for a small business at home.

He promised to take a five to 10 per cent pay cut, along with the rest of the Student Alternative slate. He described his platform as pretty moderate and defended his slate's decision to play down their ties to right-wing campus clubs and political parties.

"Our Liberal provincial government does not necessarily hold a liberal ideology," he said. "And nobody ever asks them where they stand federally and nobody ever asks municipal candidates where they stand provincially."

Henault said it's important for the UVSS to be non-partisan so it doesn't alienate students.

He said engineering and business students are turned off by some of the social and environmental campaigns the UVSS plugs in the SUB.

For example, he said a message on the student society's Environmental Communications Board in the SUB recently cited poor environmental practices of the Toronto Dominion (TD) Bank. The message asked whether students were concerned that UVic held investments in TD and was placed by a local environmental group.

"Some business students are hoping to get jobs with TD Bank and are turned off when they come into the SUB," he said. "We should be looking for more equal representation [within the UVSS] and we should focus on issues within the society."

He also played down his aspirations to invite corporate sponsors to play a role in society business.

"I'm not going to replace the International Grill with McDonalds," he said. "But I will consider options to use spaces like Vertigo and the arcade."

Henault also said his priority is to reopen Vertigo, the notorious SUB club that drained hundreds of thousands of dollars from society coffers.

"There's got to be a way to make money selling beer on campus," he said.

If elected, he will study the way other student societies make money with their clubs and open it in the short term to outside groups interested in renting the space.

This is an option that Gifford insisted can't be taken lightly.

"The unfortunate bottom line is that every event that Vertigo ever held in it's history lost money," he said.

He said he'd love to reopen the club immediately but refuses to take risks with student's money.

"My job is to watch the big picture," he said. "To make sure that we're going in the right direction and to make sure we're aware of the priorities of students."

Both candidates said they hope to improve businesses in the SUB, encourage more people from across campus to use SUB services and continue to ensure the job security of students in the SUB.

Election Briefs

compiled by Suzanne Beaubien and Darren Stewart

Media dictators propose new controls for campus

Some candidates haven't done their homework on the role of campus media in relation to student politics.

In an all candidate's meeting held last Friday in the SUB, services candidate Chuck Wooten said that, if elected, he would "dictate" to *the Martlet* to run a page per week on UVSS events. When an audience member yelled to Wooten that *the Martlet* is, in fact, independent, he backpedalled and said he would buy advertising space for the page "at cost."

Independent candidate Devon Anderson echoed this sentiment in the second all-candidates' forum held on Tuesday. Anderson's platform at the candidates forum included ensuring coverage by CFUV, the campus radio station, of UVSS events. He said CFUV should have prioritized their coverage to include the candidates forum.

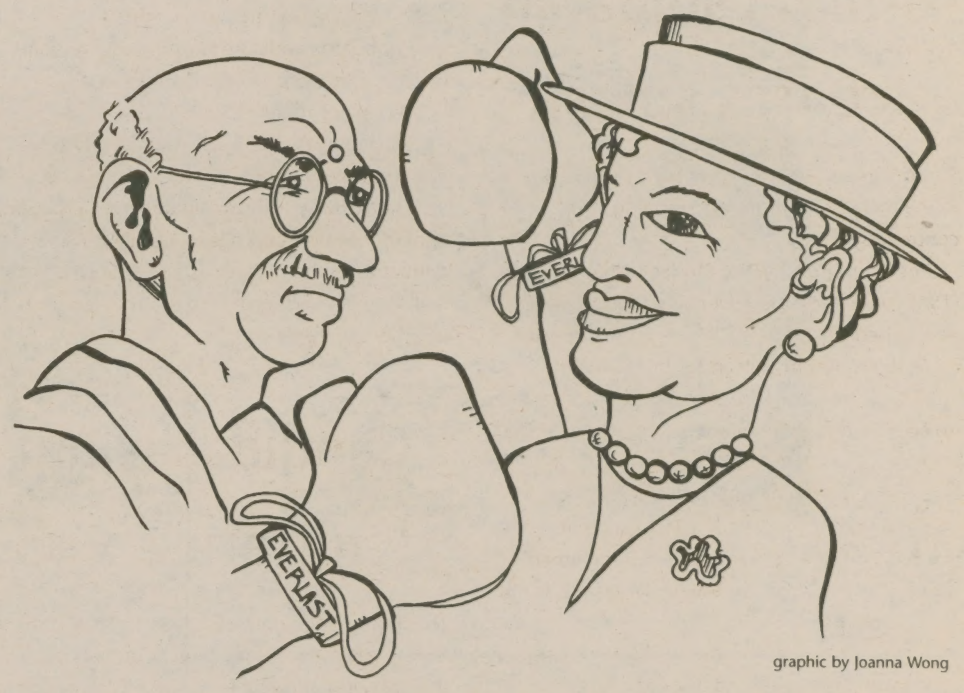
"It's important for students that couldn't be here to get a feel for what the candidates are all about," he said.

At the time of the forum CFUV was outside in the courtyard, holding their annual Fundrive.

Wooten is best known as the candidate proposing to hold go-cart races around ring road. This could be problematic given that previous year's boards couldn't even hold tricycle races around the inside of Felicita's for fear of legal liability.

And tell us, Chuck, what would we do about those pesky transit buses?

see page 3 for more election briefs



graphic by Joanna Wong

When asked what politician the chair candidates most identified with and admired, Troy Sebastion said Ghandi and Lisa Karoway said Margeret Thatcher "Not necessarily because of her ideologies but because of what she did to get women into politics," Karoway said.

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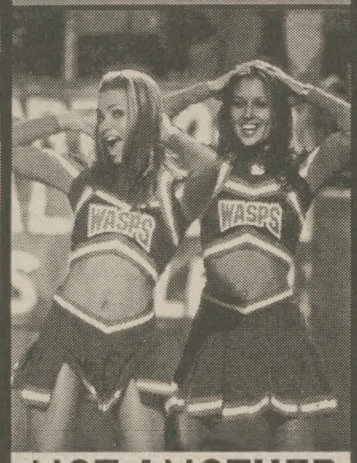

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Referendum question meets no debate

by Suzanne Beaubien

Both electoral slates in this week's election expressed support for the proposed dollar levy on top of current student fees to fund the Native Students' Union (NSU).

Lisa Karoway, The Student Alternative's (TSA) chairperson candidate, said the whole slate is behind the NSU.

"I think it's ridiculous that they're not getting money in the first place," she said.

If a majority does vote yes, one dollar from all full-time undergrads and 50 cents from part-time students would mean a $20,000 boost to the NSU's yearly budget.

Until now, the NSU has relied upon grants from the UVSS and an annual stipend of $2500 from the vice-president academic and provost. They have to apply each year for additional funds from the student society.

Wil George, spokesperson for the NSU, said the $20,000 would fund several projects, such as a resource library for both native and non-native students.

It would also allow the NSU to reestablish an aboriginal caucus of students, faculty and staff, fund regular social and cultural events and pay NSU staff.

Most NSU representatives and council members are volunteers and with the loss of the workstudy program earlier this year, the union will need extra funds to retain its two paid council positions. The levy would also help the NSU hire a full-time resource coordinator.

"The NSU provides space for social, but also cultural and spiritual sharing. There's a collective voice that presents itself through our students coming and joining," said George.

By press time no organization had formally registered an opposition to the NSU's referendum question. Opposition needed to be registered with the electoral officers by March 6, the first day of voting.

Last year a similar referendum was held to decide on a fee levy for the UVSS constituency groups. A majority vote resulted in a two dollar charge to each student, distributed between the Pride Collective, the Women's Centre, the Students of Colour Collective and the Society of Students with a Disability.

Karoway said the UVSS board needs to do more than just increase funding to the NSU.

"You need to support ideas and the people carrying them out," she said.

Trisha Girard, another TSA candidate, said she thinks the referendum is a great way to let people know the NSU even exists.

Despite the lack of vocal opposition, Troy Sebastian, the Putting Students First slate's candidate for chair and the NSU's current representative to the UVSS, thinks the results will be close.

"I'd be surprised to see a mandate over 60 per cent," said Sebastian.

He said even though no one has taken a stance against the NSU, there is still bias on campus that could result in a close vote.

"We can't be sure," he said. "As aboriginal students, we're used to disappointment. We get disappointed by the government all the time."

Sebastian said in addition to the funding he would like to see a more appropriate space secured for the NSU.

"It's important to have an adequate space that is reflective of native culture," he said.

photo by Graham Winterbottom

Wil George hopes that students will support increased funding for the NSU.

The current office does not meet the needs of all native students on campus, many of whom are uncomfortable with being in the SUB, said Sebastian.

The NSU holds several regular events both on and off campus, such as the annual welcoming feast in September, the mid-winter feast, aboriginal awareness week, monthiy elders' dinners at Camosun College, "Indigenous Rhythms," a bi-semester event that brings together aboriginal singers, poets and dancers on campus, and the First People Students' symposium, a forum that allows aboriginal master's students to present their papers to other aboriginal students.

Urinal campaign creates splash

Campaign posters, promises and platforms pasted in the men's washroom are dripping with controversy.

Posters put up by The Student Alternative (TSA) candidates above urinals across campus have raised the ire of political opponents.

At the forum held Monday in the Michèle Pujol room someone asked about the possible objectification of women demonstrated in these posters.

In response to the question and its implications, Trisha Girard, a TSA candidate for the board of directors and one of the women whose poster got pee-splashed, said she was not objectifying herself.

She said she is committed to campaigning for equality and didn't intend to offend anyone.

But Geordie Clarke, a candidate for the board of directors under the Putting Students First (PSF) slate, said he thought the posters were in poor taste. In fact, he said he was unable to go when faced with them at the public urinal.

TSA board candidate Jordon Hollie responded by saying that the men's washroom was just another place to advertise.

"And besides," he said. "You've got nothing else to do but read the poster anyway."

Lisa Karoway, TSA candidate for Chairperson, added it is important not to let minor issues detract from the main ones, like finance.

"They [the posters] were never meant to harm anyone," said Karoway.

Candidates get legislature nod

The Student Alternative isn't getting any help from the provincial government in playing down their political affiliations. Liberal MLA Sheila Orr stood in the legislature recently and introduced Lisa Karoway, Dallas Henault and Trisha Girard, the UVic B.C. Young Liberals.

"These students were remarkable on the day that there was a student protest down on the lawns," Orr said. "They stayed up at UVic, they set up a table, they sat down, and they explained myth from fact. They told me and have told many people that they had a lot of silent support. Would you please give this group of very bright students a very warm welcome."

Put the you back in UVSS

A hot issue this election is student alienation and the push to make UVSS politics more inclusive across faculties.

Both slates have pledged to make student government more accountable and accessible to a greater number of students.

Lisa Karoway, the Student Alternative chair candidate, said she'd conducted direct outreach across campus and over the web. Members of her slate repeatedly brought up the lack of representation of computer science and engineering students in the SUB and in the UVSS.

Karoway said that if elected she would develop an online polling system to gauge student opinions in order to get more involved.

Putting Students First chair candidate Troy Sebastian said he thinks students are more fragmented then alienated. He said he would work with existing course unions to reach more students not normally involved in UVSS politics.

While the UVSS has worked closely with the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) to represent student issues this year, Karoway thinks the new board should be responsible first to the students, not the CFS.

"I'd like to see what students think about the issues that are important to them," she said. "Then the board would decide if the CFS is in agreement with the students' wishes."

"The CFS is a good thing, but we need to hold them accountable," said Karoway.

see page 7 for more news briefs

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Students petition against war

by John Thompson

A group of local students have garnered international participation in their petition calling for peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Four Pearson College students, two from Israel and two from Palestine, started the petition that circulated around the globe and passed through other international schools and non-governmental agencies.

Bassam Jarbawi, 17, spent last summer in his native Palestine. He photographed the clash between the Israeli army and Palestinian rock-throwers, whom he said are friends and classmates.

Nufar Avni, 16, added that he knows people killed from bomb explosions in his native West Israel.

Both live in the same dorm at Pearson, an international school in Metchosin.

Their teacher, Robyn Tyner, suggested the idea for the petition. It was prompted on the weekend of Dec 2-3, when 25 Israelis died in violent clashes.

Tyner said they have collected over 1,000 signatures from various sources, including a school in India and a village in Israel.

The online version of the petition has amassed signatures from 89 countries around the world. The petition will be submitted to the United Nations at the end of April 2002.

Bassam, a professional photographer, said he documented the skirmishes between rock-throwers and the army to raise awareness of the situation. He became involved with the petition for the same reason.

"This summer I went home and it had escalated badly," he said. "The period between hearing a gunshot or a bombshell was about five minutes."

He has seen other photographers shot and nearly beaten to death.

"It's suffocating, basically," he said.

Still, he says without hesitation that he hopes to return this summer, even though the borders are closed. He said he believes there needs to be a Palestinian state that includes Jerusalem.

While this opinion isn't shared by all his classmates, they set aside personal differences when working on the petition.

Bassam said he recognizes that doing otherwise would perpetuate what they're working against.

Pearson student Origa Barzel, 17, is also involved in the petition. She comes from northern Israel.

Barzel said her political views and personal experiences need to be downplayed. Instead, emphasis should be placed on the message of their petition, she said.

"It doesn't matter if I knew them," she said of victims from the conflict. "It's all personal."

Nufar said that when she returned home last Christmas, she noticed things had changed for the worse.

"What I noticed was people losing their hope," she said. "Now, people are more skeptical. The extremes are getting stronger, and the moderates are becoming smaller."

The petition was motivated by a desire to change this, she said. Nufar has no high expectations for the petition but still recognizes their need to work together.

"It's really hard to create change individually. As a group of people, we have a chance," she said. "What are the other choices? To just sit back and disagree?"

While she recognizes that even small victories are steps forward, Nufar remains reluctant to say anything too idealistic.

"If we can make ourselves work together, then other people can," she said.

The petition for peace can be signed online, at www.pearsoncollege.ca, under the "Middle East Initiative" link.

Potluck steams discussion

by Lorna Mace

Dishing up food and support, Victoria women celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) four days early on March 4.

The event featured panel discussions, performances, storytelling, films and historical IWD posters. The celebration invited Victorians to learn more about women's history and the importance of the worldwide-celebrated day.

"Nobody knows what IWD is," said robin cryderman, chair of the IWD organizing committee. "What good is all the rabble-rousing if no one actually knows what goes on?"

"Stop the world and change it!" is the informal motto for the gathering – a saying adopted from the Global Women's Strike that originated through the Wages for Housework Campaign in Ireland and England.

"We would all stop working at once and stop and shut down the world," said cryderman.

The strike traditionally takes place on IWD. It was that international strike that spurred cryderman to organize the IWD event.

"I've really noticed how much talking there is that needs to be done," she said. "We keep having to fight the same fight again and again."

Cindy L'Hirondelle, coordinator for the Status of Women Action Group (SWAG), echoed cryderman's view.

"We want to make sure people have an opportunity to learn about International Women's Day and how it's celebrated around the world," said L'Hirondelle. "[IWD] is about tying in the issue of unpaid labour."

L'Hirondelle advocates paid labour for women and notes 70 per cent of all unpaid labour in the world is done by women, strengthening the need for a Global Women's Strike.

She believes organized events like the potluck are needed to open dialogue.

"[We need] to talk about women's contributions in the world and just how diverse and unrecognized they are," she said.

But L'Hirondelle also harbours personal reasons for her involvement in SWAG.

"Unpaid women's work is a very important issue for me," she said. "I did it for 15 years and I'm now forever vulnerable to poverty because I looked after my kids."

Another issue addressed at the community potluck centred around multiculturalism.

Members from the Inter-cultural Association Women's Group came out to the potluck to voice their support.

"I would like to see more freedom and rights for women," said Janet Kahn, a member of the association. "We wanted all women from around the world to be represented, we're fighting for women's equity and equality."

The group came to the potluck to take part in the storytelling. Along with their stories, they also displayed their in-progress peace quilt entitled, "One World Many Cultures."

Cristina Shore, facilitator for the Inter-cultural group, works with women who have recently immigrated to Canada.

"The purpose of this group is [to provide] support for new immigrants and refugees and for women who feel isolated," Shore said. "[We provide] a safe place where they can practice English and where they can learn about the Canadian style of life."

Shore feels the potluck and educational event are imperative for women new to Canada.

"With this presentation, it gives them self-esteem," she said. "They can get exposure to their community as a whole and also explain the concerns, because they are so different from the mainstream women."

The International Women's Day Bread and Roses Parade will be held on IWD on March 8.

The procession will start at 11 a.m. at the corner of Bay and Wilson. Participants are invited to bring pots, pans, costumes and placards. Due to recent cuts to social programs utilized mostly by women, cryderman feels it's particularly important to have events such as this one and the March 4 community potluck.

"As far as I can tell, to the B.C. government, women don't exist," she said. "People have to decide on goals and go for them [and] women and children have to be at the core of these issues."

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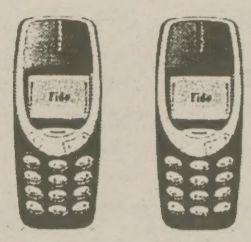

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Critics say BC Hydro privatization will shut off low rates for students

by Kevin Groves

Off campus students may be left in the dark over how to pay for increased electricity bills as the provincial government continues to consider privatization of BC Hydro.

Last August the provincial government appointed a task force to develop a comprehensive, long-term energy policy for B.C. It invited representatives from both the public and business sectors to submit proposals.

BC Hydro rates are frozen until March 31, 2003, and spokeswoman Elisha Odowichuk said no government announcements have been made on the crown corporation's long-term future.

But critics' fears indicate B.C.'s off-campus students may struggle to pay for increased electricity costs in future years. If the provincial government does decide to sell BC Hydro assets to private companies, it will guarantee an inefficient utility that charges consumers higher rates, with less reliability.

"We already have to pay for high heat and hot water bills," said Chantel Christensen, a fourth-year anthropology student who currently lives off campus. "I could see this driving the rent up on low income houses, which will have a huge impact on where and how people live in Victoria."

Director of Academics Sarah Webb said she's concerned about the skyrocketing cost of living for students. Increased hydro costs are another factor that will lead to greater demand from local students for the SUB food bank and the emergency bursary program, she said.

"With the increase in tuition and loss of jobs, accommodation is limited, so people are certainly going to be more worried about paying their bills next year than they are now."

Sylvia Fuller, a researcher with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA), said that in a privatized system, B.C.'s electricity rates would rise to the rates charged in both Alberta and the United States.

BC Hydro's electricity rates are currently the third lowest in North America. The cost of electricity has declined by approximately 13 per cent in the last decade.

> Just selling BC Hydro off to a private company and hoping that they'll do nice things for us is a ludicrous idea.
>
> *David Scoones, UVic economist*

David Scoones, a UVic economist, said he sees potential benefits in privatization of some areas of BC Hydro but criticized its feasibility on a large scale.

"Just selling BC Hydro off to a private company and hoping that they'll do nice things for us is a ludicrous idea," Scoones said. "The fact is we don't have enough hydro dams to create meaningful competition and it just makes more sense to keep one company and regulate the cost."

But Jason Clemens, director of fiscal studies for the Fraser Institute, said privatization of BC Hydro would be a positive step for the B.C. economy.

The many pluses include lowered provincial debt, expected to be $43.9 billion by March 31, 2005, reduced debt-service costs and increased outside investment in utilities, said Clemens.

Clemens also challenged the idea of increased prices as a result of privatization.

"With a monopoly, you have prices that are above a competitive marketplace," Clemens said. "I would expect that if we were in a competitive market the market price would be the same as the monopoly price, if not lower."

In 1995 Alberta's provincial government began to deregulate Alberta's electricity industry. Between June and October 2000 the price of electricity rose from 5 cents to 25 cents per kilowatt hour. Without a $2.3 billion rebate program for households and businesses, Albertans would have seen their residential electric bills go up 500 per cent in this same period.

Speak up, MPP tells Ontario university presidents

by Sharon Ho

TORONTO (CUP) – University presidents in Ontario are chickening out when it comes to demanding better education funding, the provincial NDP education critic says.

In an open letter to the Council of Ontario Universities (COU), a group that represents 19 post-secondary institutions in the province, MPP Rosario Marchese called on Ontario university presidents to speak with a strong, united voice in favour of increased funding for education.

Marchese alleges presidents continually let the government off the hook on issues like high tuition fees, deferral of capital maintenance, high faculty-to-student ratios and faculty shortages.

He said he believes most people are unaware of the financial issues facing universities and that university presidents could bring attention to universities' plight if they were more vocal.

"We need the public to become actively involved in this issue, and for whatever reason they're not. The presidents of universities and colleges are in a wonderful position to say what worries them publicly."

Arnice Cadieux, executive director of public affairs of COU, said the council has not yet discussed Marchese's letter but is generally involved in getting more funding for universities.

"We're very actively engaged in bringing to light the need for funding," said Cadieux. "The university presidents are out there front-and-centre to create awareness and work towards solutions."

Cadieux says the double cohort – the coming flood of new students that colleges and universities will face as Ontario's grade 13 is phased out – is a priority for the council.

She said university presidents are creating public awareness through the media and by speaking at public meetings.

"This is a front-burner, priority issue," said Cadieux.

Sheldon Levy, a University of Toronto vice-president, says underfunding is something the university is constantly grappling with.

"We take action all the time, every single moment of every single day," he said.

Levy said he blames the media and public for failing to make university underfunding headline news.

"The difficulty is, we're never front-page news. It's not the effort that's waning; we simply can't get through to the public."

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UVic celebrates diversity

by Brodie Waddell

March is Diversity Month at UVic and many opportunities for celebration and education are the result of the efforts of dozens of volunteers and groups on campus like the Equity Office.

Many students have already been involved in spreading the word about Disability Awareness Day on March 5 and are helping prepare for International Women's Day on March 8 along with International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on March 21.

Carol Lee of the Equity Office said it is their goal to educate people through workshops such as the two on "Developing Cultural Competence in the Classroom." She said workshops like these make people more mindful of discrimination.

"The Students of Colour Collective's event for example, 'Critical Multiculturalism on Campus,' is a forum where we can delve into the idea of multiculturalism," said Lee.

"After all, 'multiculturalism' can mean a lot of different things to different people."

The workshops cover the difficulties encountered by sexual minorities, indigenous and international students and students with disabilities.

Highlighting the month is the Estrofest Benefit Concert for International Women's Day with Victorian musicians like Kia, Big Muff and dj Sarah Hanah. Also important is the "Prejudice Reduction Workshop" on March 11, which will give people an opportunity to learn how to both prevent and deal with discrimination, especially in the classroom.

"We're trying to address experiences that arise by developing policies to make sure they don't happen again," said Jane Brett who also works in the Equity Office. "We have to ask: 'When these issues come up in the classroom, do we know how to deal with them?'"

One of the first events of Diversity Month were the "Untold Stories of B.C." series last weekend. The speakers addressed interesting pieces of B.C. history that are usually omitted or overlooked by many students and academics.

The lecture on co-operatives emphasized some of the ways co-op organizations can help minority communities break out of the economic chains that often bind them.

"The creation of a co-operative has often been the search for an inclusive way to build diverse communities which can work together," said Laura Sjolie of the BC Institute for Co-operative Studies at UVic.

She cited the example of the Masset clamming co-operative which, in 1942, was one of the few places in B.C. where the Haida could be on an "equal footing" with white people. Now co-operatives are easy to find within the native community in areas like arts, housing, fish harvesting and canning.

"Co-operatives are highly influenced by the cultural values of their members," said Sjolie.

According to her, co-ops, especially common in repressed ethnic and religious communities, are an important contributors to B.C.'s diversity.

This series of lectures heightened the audience's understanding of a few of the many people, organizations and movements that have helped make this province so culturally varied.

According to Carol Lee, UVic has a strong infrastructure for promoting equity and diversity, though there is much progress to be made.

"There are many active people on campus," said Lee. "And there are a lot of students who are deeply committed to these issues."

photo by Graham Winterbottom

Dj Jordan Blake spins funky house outside the SUB March 5 for the CFUV Fundrive. As part of the fundraising event the radio station will celebrate International Woman's Day with the Women's Radio-A-Thon on Friday. The event features a full day of all-female programming and culminates in the evening with an open-mic of female poetry and song. The Women's Radio-A-Thon is the last event in this year's Fundrive, an annual fundraising event that CFUV uses to cover 15 per cent of the operating budget to buy equipment for replacement or repairs. Their goal this year was to raise $20,000, and by Wednesday $12,419 had been donated by the community.

Ontario critical of federal strategy

by Shawn Jeffords

TORONTO (CUP) – An initiative Industry Minister Allan Rock promises will make Canada more innovative and globally competitive is drawing criticism and doubt in Ontario.

The province's Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities has called the Innovation Strategy that Rock and fellow federal cabinet member Jane Stewart announced in mid-February a "failure."

The paper outlined several commitments from the federal government aimed at ensuring Canada's competitiveness in fields like research and development and education.

Among the promises for education were assurances that more master's and Ph.D students would be admitted to Canadian universities, more money would be provided for research at schools and the creation of the Trudeau scholarships to entice top students to study in Canada.

"We're appalled by the federal government; they've failed the people of Ontario," said Dave Ross, a spokesperson for Colleges and Universities Minister Diane Cunningham. "Ontarians need to stand up and be counted. They contribute their fair share to our federal government and now it's time they got some back."

Ross said the province has been negotiating a labour-market development agreement with Ottawa for over a year. This agreement would see the federal government contribute money to train people in the province.

Ross says the Liberals won't commit to the funding.

"If they sign, it will allow us to train 200,000 more people," said Ross. "They are moving this money away from training to ribbon cuttings and job kiosks that don't work. People need training."

Ian Boyko, national chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), is wary of the new federal plan, citing room for increasing corporate influence on campuses as a major concern.

"This could be a double-edged sword for Canadian universities," said Boyko. "[The CFS] tends to be very critical of public/private partnerships. They're a pandora's box. It could create more corporate influence on schools."

Boyko says the much-lauded Trudeau scholarships are also problematic.

"[The Liberals] are getting a lot of mileage out of the name," said Boyko. "We're disappointed with the overnight decision to create these Trudeau scholarships and the lack of consultation that went into that decision."

Rock, however, is adamant the Innovation Strategy will push Canada forward in the global economic market for the next decade. He says the declining standard of living in Canada is directly linked to the education system.

"These are not just numbers on a screen," Rock said of recent standard-of-living figures that show Canada falling behind other G8 countries. "They have real consequences for our lives. They result in fewer investment dollars coming to Canada and more of our young people looking south for opportunity."

Rock also said the strategy is an important investment in people.

"A skilled work force will be to the knowledge economy what factories were to the industrial revolution."

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UBC student deported for supporting Falun Gong

by Chris Sheperd

VANCOUVER (CUP) – A University of British Columbia student was deported from China last month after he was arrested in Beijing for protesting the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners.

Third-year arts student Ben Larkman arrived in Beijing on Feb. 8 and the next morning he began distributing pamphlets about Falun Gong, a meditation and exercise practice also known as Falun Dafa.

"[The leaflet] basically said that Falun Gong is good. We're not against the government," he said.

Larkman didn't have long to share his message.

"Within 15 minutes I was arrested," he said. "That was in the morning, and throughout the day I was in about three different police compounds."

Following his arrest, Larkman had no contact with authorities other than the Chinese police. In the first two police stations where he was held, no one spoke English. An English speaker was brought to the third.

"I was interrogated but I was not given any of my rights," said Larkman. "They promised me that they would call the embassy, but that never happened. They ended up just taking me to the airport and putting me on a plane."

Larkman's original plan was to hand out as many pamphlets as possible and then to join a group of Falun Gong practitioners from outside China who were meeting at Tiananmen Square on Feb. 14.

"When I said that Falun Dafa is good, I had six guards bring me down," said Sophia Bronwen, a spokesperson for Falun Gong and one of the people who had gathered at Tiananmen Square to display banners on Feb. 14.

Bronwen said she saw several Falun Gong supporters beaten by police that day, and that after 30 hours of detention, she and the others were deported from China.

Larkman said that although the police were threatening, they didn't use violence against him.

"I wasn't violently treated," he said. "I was pushed around a little. Whenever I was in public places and I would tell people that Falun Gong was good, I would get pushed around and threatened by the police."

Falun Gong became popular in China in 1992, and by 1999, when it was made illegal by the Chinese government, it was being practiced by 100 million people. Many people outside of China travel to the country to support Falun Gong.

Falun Gong practitioners go to China, especially Tiananmen Square, they say, because they want to counter the Chinese government's efforts to stop the practice.

The treatment of Falun Gong practitioners in China has been much disputed.

Falun Gong practitioners say that they have documented the deaths of 366 of their members in Chinese labour camps. They believe, but cannot confirm, that the number is actually over 1,000. They also claim the Chinese government has been torturing Falun Gong practitioners.

However, Wang Ying, a cultural consul at the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China, said the Chinese government has never told its police to torture Falun Gong practitioners.

"Perhaps one or two of the people, under some kind of circumstances were killed, but it's not the order of the government," he said. "Sometimes I think Westerners, some of them anyway, are very pure. They believe whatever the practitioners say to them," Ying said.

The Chinese government has done much to oppose Falun Gong. One government magazine depicts suicides and murders that it claims were committed by Falun Gong practitioners.

"The slander is very huge," said Bronwen, "and most Chinese people are believing it."

Poster violations common in campaign

Electoral officers said that this year's UVSS election candidates have broken the rules.

Students from both slates, as well as independents, have violated some of the publication rules in the election guidelines. Posters must be stamped by the electoral officers and must be put up only on brick, cement and concrete surfaces under cover.

Posters that have been pulled included questionable content, referring to "embezzlement."

It's up to the discretion of the electoral officers to decide whether posters violate rules and what punishment is appropriate for each infraction.

Candidates caught breaking the rules are not allowed to paste as many posters around the university. The electoral officers said they dealt with the infractions but did not comment further.

Disability Awareness Day on campus

University life is difficult enough to juggle with books and midterms, jobs and social life.

Try it in a wheelchair.

March 5 was Disability Awareness Day at UVic and a number of events and presentations sponsored by the Society for Students with a Disability raised awareness of the issues disabled students face on campus.

Events included video screenings and community group displays in the University Centre. University president David Turpin showed his support by rolling around campus in a wheelchair for half the day.

Teri Hibbs, a graduate student and member of the Society for Students with a DisAbility (SSD), said the event is important in reaching out to the UVic community.

"One thing people aren't aware of is that people with disabilities often have to plan ahead extensively with time and energy," she said. "So as a constituency group, they're not as visible on campus."

She said Disability Awareness Day gives students insight into issues that affect people with disabilities.

"Disability Awareness Day is about changing the attitudes and assumptions that people with disabilities are less able to cope with university life," said Hibbs. "That's the barrier we're trying to break down.

Fay Gray, history student and member of the Society, said cuts to workstudy jobs make public outreach even more important now for the SSD. Gray is unsure of how the Society will fund the part-time positions in the future, and said raising awareness of disability issues is key to community involvement.

The Society of Students with Disabilities has about 100 members who make use of their resources.

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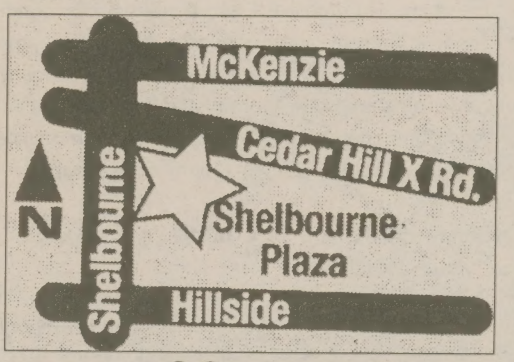

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EDITORIAL

Politics partisan by definition

Hockey coaches choose starting forwards based on their slapshots, baseball coaches choose starting pitchers based on their throwing arm, grad schools choose students based on academic performance and voters choose politicians based on ideology.

All of these decisions are based on observable ability and traits that have been demonstrated.

A candidate for a political position cannot run in a vacuum. Every act that candidates engage in daily is a political representation and demonstration of their ideological position.

Whether recycling, eating meat, chanting on the legislature lawn, condemning corporate ownership in the SUB, advocating Ring Road go-cart races or standing behind a BC Liberals table on campus, these candidates are partaking in a political act.

And these acts become very relevant as soon as this person runs for a political position, whether it be school board, prime minister or chair of the UVSS.

Candidates in this week's election have harped on their supposedly non-partisan platforms, reminding the electorate over and over that they are "not politicians" and will only represent student interests.

But "student interests" that winning candidates choose to represent and define are molded based on the ideology these candidates hold.

By supporting the BC Liberals tuition defreeze, candidates automatically align themselves with a certain spectrum of politics: one that may support a vast number of related issues, such as increased corporatization, less government control and greater economic freedom for business.

In contrast, candidates that support the movement towards free post-secondary education and open access to all Canadians, also automatically align themselves with a certain rainbow of political issues that may incorporate increased social benefits to single parents, greater visibility of minorities or more government green initiatives.

We are not arguing either side is more valid over the other, merely highlighting the cyclical nature of politics and its movement in all realms of life.

To paraphrase an academic on campus, "If you argue that you're not political then keep your mouth shut."

International Women's Day still necessary

Lynn Stephens, B.C minister of state for women's equality, recently told the media: "The opportunities are exactly equal. A single woman and a single man have exactly the same opportunities with the same education." She stated that "more women are abused, not oppressed." Alongside these comments she stood by while programs to support women – including funding for women's centres, pay equity programs, day care programs and many others were gutted or eliminated.

So I ask, you ask, we all ask, what is the purpose of International Women's Day?

We have International Women's Day because contrary to our minister's assertion, women are abused *and* oppressed. Not all women of course, but enough to see that this oppression and abuse is a phenomenon that needs to be addressed.

Even in 2002, on average, women still make less money than men, women are still saddled with the primary responsibility for child care, women suffer violence in intimate relationships and fear walking alone at night, women in the global economy are the poorest of the poor.

These facts have become almost cliché because we hear them so often. And these clichés are as overused as clichés are. We have International Women's Day to remind us not to be complacent. To recognize that these "clichés" are women's realities both in Canada and worldwide.

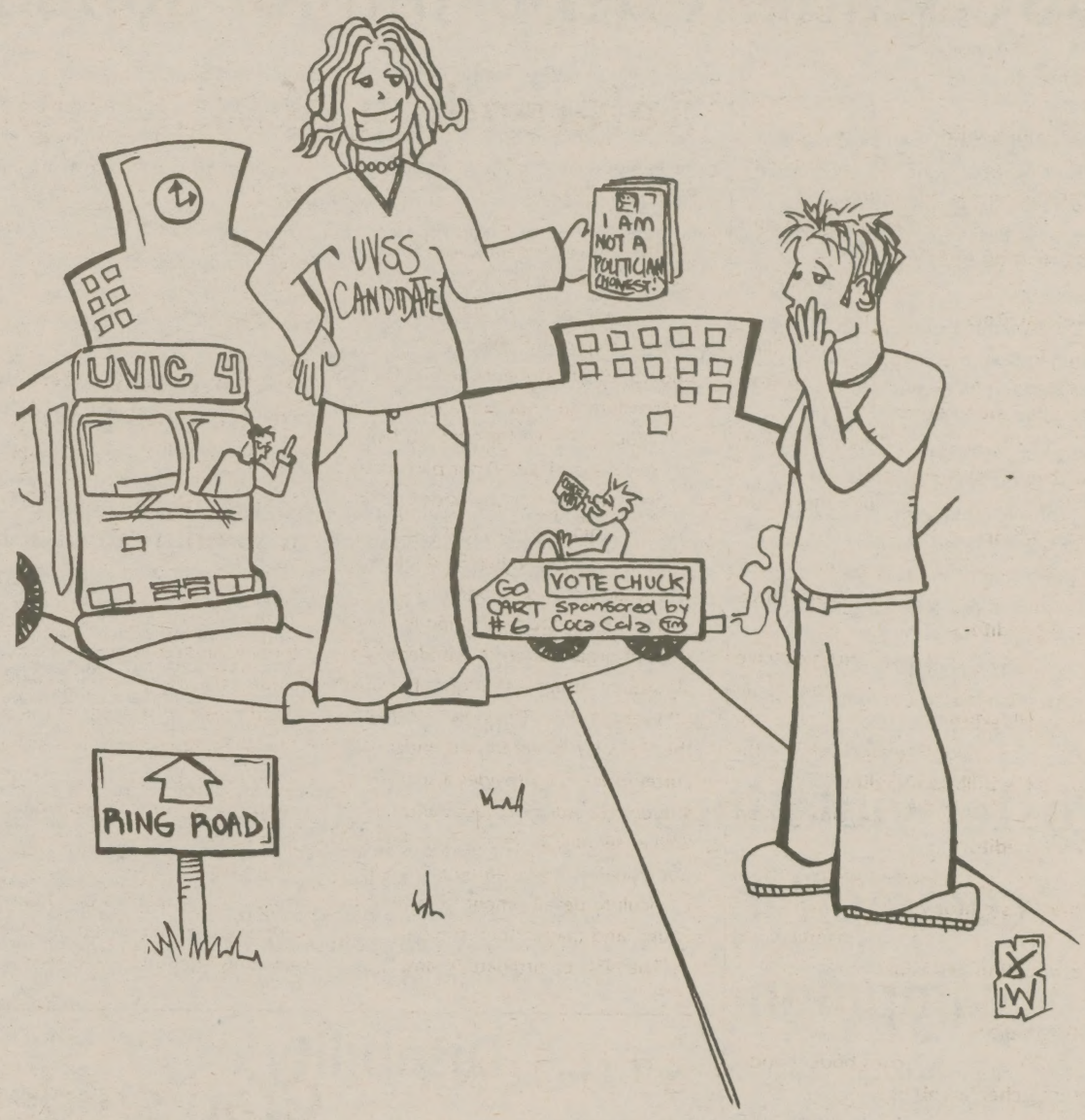
The first International Women's Day was organized by German socialist women on March 19, 1911, to protest working conditions for working-class women. Six days later in New York the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory which employed mostly young women burned to the ground and North American women began to mobilize around poor working conditions.

Today in British Columbia women aren't locked into factories and paid $3.00 per week. And sure, not all women are oppressed. But some are. Some native women are, some women of colour are, and women with disabilities are and single mothers and queer women. Our minister for women's equality has perhaps forgotten these women. And perhaps we all forget these women.

This is why we have International Women's Day . . . to remember.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings, every Monday at 12:30 p.m. in SUB b110a. Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

Don't like what you read? Write, write, write, gimme gimme gimme: **martlet@uvic.ca**



STUDENT VOICE

Luncheon with Mike de Jong

by Ingmar Lee

The other day I rushed down to the plush Laurel Point Hotel to hear Forests Minister Mike de Jong address the annual Western Silviculture Contractor's Association (SWSCA) convention. I just had to see the guy who's so intent on damaging our province. It was everything I expected.

Minister de Jong likes his routine just like anyone, "but," he said to the contractors – describing an epiphany he'd had that morning while reading the label on a hotel shampoo gratuity – "change is imminent." Bereft of any further vision, he was looking for help on what to do. As long as people kept away from the forestry lingo – which, being a lawyer, he didn't understand – he was open to suggestions. His job was to create a "rack to hang the meat on." It was up to the stakeholders to provide the steaks. He chuckled as he described writing Dirk Brinkman's suggestion for the obliteration of FRBC into the "New Era" document prior to the election. "Done!" he said to applause from the contractors. (Brinkman is one of Canada's largest silviculture contractors and is husband of Wallop Minister Joyce Murray) Mike's plan instead is to give $84 million to the logging industry, "and they've got the expertise to know what to do with it." That, apparently, is this year's silviculture budget.

> "We just have to step back as a government and let industry get down to business," [de Jong] said, and with that he flew off to Ottawa.

The minister went on about how the government felt for the pain, the pain out there, and how hard it was for them to make these tough decisions, and how he understood and respected the peoples' right to demonstrate even (The roars and shrieks of the bludgeoned civil society writhing on the legislature lawn down the street seemed pretty far away). He said it was tough that the media hadn't made it very clear that it was the federal MP's that got the big raise and not them. Now he's off to Ottawa to ask the Prime Minister to get down there and have a chat with Mr. Bush.

There's a forlorn desperation eating away at the man and concern is written on his brow. He's just so itching to crank that industry up and wind it out, but he can't. It was up to the Americans. It was their problem. You know, he's got something to sell and they don't want to buy. And he really insisted, but no. And again, but NO! American lumber producers get touchy when alien market-share hits 30 per cent and they just can't use such endless shipments of 2X4s anyway. Their sawmills are much more versatile and can get far more value out of the wood, so they'd just prefer our ancient forests to be shipped down there in the round. They're riled that B.C.'s logging industry gets to trash up the woods and claim that our lax environmental standards constitute a massive perverse subsidy.

Will the Gordon Campbell government, while hacking and slashing into every non-big-business sector of B.C. society, continue handing out billions and billions in subsidies to the giant logging corporations which are now approaching total control over B.C.'s public forests? More corporate welfare handouts for this same industry that has been quietly ripping off the public for billions through grade-setting and other deceit? These same logging giants who donated the $6 million that got these Gordosaurs elected expect a return on their investment. "We just have to step back as a government and let industry get down to business," he said, and with that he flew off to Ottawa.

LETTERS

Female politicians taking a step backwards

Members of the Women's Centre and Pride Collective are disgusted and appalled about some of the tactics of candidates in the upcoming election. The women on the Student Alternative slate have repeatedly admitted to commodifying and exploiting their sexuality in hopes to attract votes. It is not the fact that these women are dressing in a provocative manner that is of concern; what is of concern is the fact that they are buying into ideals that say women must present themselves as sex objects in order to achieve success in any arena. We support any woman's choice of dress, including those that express positive sexuality. However, when a certain slate resorts to the sexual objectification of female candidates, we must question how they will represent women on campus.

Tracy Coulter, Laurie Boswall (UVSS Women's Centre) and Lynn Risk (Pride Collective)

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INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES

Referendum of vital importance to campus community

by Troy Sebastian

For the Native Student Union this election is of vital importance.

We have put forward to the membership of the UVSS (all undergraduate students here at UVic) a referendum question that, if successful, will allocate $1 per full-time student per semester, or $0.50 per part-time student per semester towards Native Student Union services and programs.

So who is the Native Student Union and what are these programs?

The Native Student Union is a student organization of self-identified aboriginal students that goes back over 30 years at UVic. This is longer than the UVSS has been around under its current name. It provides a space for students to study, hangout and talk, as well as serving as an advocate for aboriginal issues on campus such as curriculum development, transferability issues, and many other issues.

The NSU co-ordinates many activities on and off-campus as well, such as the monthly Elders' Dinner, which brings students and elders together in order to feast, tell stories as well as to make friends.

> To make the University of Victoria an attractive destination for aboriginal students, the university must be more inclusive of aboriginal students not only on an academic level, but also on a cultural level.

We host the annual Welcome Feast, for new and returning aboriginal students, a Winter Feast, which is a good break for students at the end of the fall semester, as well as Indigenous Rhythms, a night of cultural stories, songs, performances and, you guessed it, feasting.

(In reading this column, you may have noticed that feasting is an important aspect of aboriginal life. Feasting brings us together so we may tell stories, listen to the words of the elders, and most of all, eat yummy salmon. Who can say no to that?)

But, the NSU is not just about feasting and socializing. We play an important role in the university by advocating on behalf of aboriginal students, as well as providing an environment that is inclusive and supportive to aboriginal identity.

We need the support of all UVSS members in this election in order to effectively address these challenges that are unique to aboriginal students.

In Canada there is no other aspect of the population that is growing at such a rate as is seen within the aboriginal community. Nearly 50 per cent of all aboriginal people in Canada are under the age of 25. That means that in the coming years there will be an ever-increasing demand on the post-secondary education system by aboriginal students the likes of which have never been seen.

That is why aboriginal student issues ought to be a priority of not only the UVSS but also the entire university. To make the University of Victoria an attractive destination for aboriginal students, the university must be more inclusive of aboriginal students not only on an academic level, but also on a cultural level.

This fee referendum is not just one step towards making the university a more inclusive place for aboriginal students, but it is the first and most important step.

We encourage UVic students to show their support of the NSU by helping make this vote in favour of the fee increase a success.

STUDENT VOICE

Grad students go to polls in referendum

by Jaime Matten

Should grad students be contributing to campus services like the Ombudsperson, clubs and the Sexual Assault Centre? That question will be posed in a referendum of grad students this week, March 6, 7, and 8. They'll be voting on whether to contribute a total of $5.50 per semester to a range of campus groups, including the above mentioned, as well as the clubs, constituency groups (The Women's Centre, Pride Collective, Students of Colour Collective and Society for Students with a DisAbility) and the Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPIRG).

The initiative for the referendum did not come from these groups but from grad students themselves, who passed a motion at their AGM to hold the referendum. The reasoning behind the move may have something to do with the fact that while grad students are currently not contributing money to these resources, many value and use the services.

For example, according to the January 2002 Ombudsperson report, grads turned to the Ombudsperson for support with supervisory and interpersonal conflict; academic concerns like grades and academic concessions; funding; and requirements to withdraw.

"Many grad students are surprised that they don't already contribute to these groups," said Sarah Webb, UVSS director of academics, who sits on the Ombudsperson's Advisory Committee. "We think grad students value the services of the Ombudsperson, as well as the other groups, like the Sexual Assault Centre, and will support contributing to them, just as undergrads have."

In fact, Martine Conway, the Ombudsperson, hopes grad funding could expand the services of her office. "We are hoping to increase access to the Ombudsperson if we receive additional funding," said Conway. "The office is only open part-time and more work needs to be done on prevention, education, coaching and follow-up, in particular for graduate student cases."

At VIPIRG, there is hope that grad students will bring advanced research skills to the organization.

"We use research as a social change tool and our focus on research has been increased through our Research Internship Program linking students with community groups who have research needs," said Bruce Wallace, VIPIRG Research Coordinator. "I think grad students will be a good fit with our organization; the combination of activism with research is where grad students have a particular ability to offer the community."

Political prisoner a worthy cause

MONOLOGUE

by Larry Wartel

Lori Berenson believes in free education – not just a tuition freeze.

Lori believes that women should be compensated for their work wherever they are in the world. Lori believes that poverty should be outlawed. She believes that children should grow up without its burden since most of the world's women and children – and men – live in poverty. She believes that until too few no longer have too much, it is our responsibility to live our lives to change that (10% of the world's population has 75% of its wealth, conservatively). And Lori believes that people have the right to work for these principles. That is why she is in prison.

Lori is a former MIT student from New York who was not given the choice to finish her education. The injustice of power, wealth and privilege got in the way. She started going to El Salvador in the 80s to bear witness. She lived and learned from poor families threatened with death from an American taxpayer-supported military government. Eventually some of these people were killed. Lori became a journalist for two American magazines, hoping to use her university skills to bring greater North American exposure to the conditions of women living in poverty in Latin America. Again choosing not just to drop in, photograph, jot down notes and run, but to live amongst those experiencing the oppression with its roots in the North American investment system of extreme disparity, Lori went to Lima in the mid 90s. She was accosted by military police on a bus one day, pulled off it, given a trial that lasted about an hour where the witnesses and judge were hooded, and then sentenced to life in prison for – treason. She was incarcerated high in the Andes in a six degree, solitary confinement cell for years. No spiritual tourism for her.

Treason? From another country? That is the entryway into the farce and egregious but legal monstrosity Lori and thousands of others endure not just in Peru, but all countries where the international investment system creates oasis of riches within immense seas of poverty. A few million letters, faxes and phone calls would probably free Lori, who is undeniably innocent of the charges, as the Web site freelori.org objectively details. But because no corporate controlled media source in North America will effectively talk about Lori, including CBC, we have to build the movement to free Lori. And that is happening.

Why should we care about an American stuck in Peru? Lori's struggle is our struggle. What is happening as a consequence of international investment in the poverty-stricken ghettos of Peru is happening at UVic through tuition increases and the "McCampusing" of the university. Our taxes as Canadians actually support resource extraction in Peru through the Canadian International Development Agency's Peru Canadian Mining Assistance Project. This flashes the green light to the Peruvian government that its human rights violations are acceptable – until we object.

Courageous anti-globalization activists like Lori will be historical figures in the centuries to come because they are the voices against contemporary oppression every bit as brutal as what Copernicus, Jesus and Galileo faced. But the complicit and intentional silence of the corporate-dominated media negates the meaning of the lives of people like Lori, who are part of creating options to injustice that affects us all. The broadcasted and printed cacophony of quantity deceives us into believing we have lots of choice – but no real alternatives to the crises our communities and environment face. Every dollar spent on the repression of dissent, bombs and troops is a dollar stolen from us for affordable education, environmental renewal and poverty eradication.

That's all Lori is saying. Please write a letter, make a phone call or fax to free Lori. Please ask your professors to give credit for assigning the book her mother wrote, *Lori – My Daughter, Wrongfully Imprisoned in Peru*. You will be making history.

For even more op/ed, turn to page 19

waterlogged

Beneath the lake, a forest

by John Thompson

Logging season is about to begin beneath the cold waters of Ootsa Lake, one of fifty watershed reservoirs in British Columbia.

Located in the geographical centre of B.C. east of Bella Coola, the 250 square kilometre Ootsa was formed when the Kenney dam was built in 1952 by Alcan and the B.C. government to power the aluminum smelter in Kitimat.

The damming project turned a series of interconnected lakes into a single water body and buried the surrounding forest beneath the rising water, which is 320 feet deep at its deepest point. Today, these trees stand beneath Ootsa, the odd treetop piercing the lake's surface. This underwater forest is dead, but the wood has been preserved, beyond the reach of most insects, oxygen or light.

This wood is promoted as an alternative to cutting terrestrial forests by the pioneers of underwater logging, an industry still in its infancy.

Harvesting season ended last October for James Geelen, owner of Lakewood Lumber, a company that harvests and mills lumber from Ootsa.

The company operates from May to October, when the water doesn't freeze.

Currently, the wood is removed from the lake with processors, machines that reach down and wrench submerged trees from the lake bottom.

Lakewood also owns a machine that cuts trees at their base with a chainsaw, but it can only reach 30 feet beneath the surface, limiting its operation to the fringes of the lake.

The practice of uprooting underwater trees disturbs the sediment in the lake, but the exact environmental impact is unclear, since the submerged forest is not a naturally occurring phenomenon.

Jill Thompson, the Vancouver Island spokesperson for the Sierra Club, said submerged wood can have negative effects on aquatic environments, but this needs to be weighed against the impact of sediment disturbance.

"It's sort of a question of whether two wrongs can make a right," she added, "and in this case, I don't know the answer."

Fisheries biologist Peter Tschaplinski, who surveyed Ootsa Lake over a decade ago, expressed similar uncertainty.

"It's a completely artificial habitat," he said. "I can't imagine what the impact would be."

However, he does remember watching trees, whose root-systems had weakened, burst out of the lake "rocketing missile-like to the surface."

For boaters, the submerged trees pose a threat in an otherwise exceptional fishing area.

When Lakewood's operators pull the trees from the lake bottom, the wood emerges from the lake as if it has been skinned, stripped of its bark and limbs. The logs are then loaded onto a make-shift cradle floating on the lake surface, formed from two large oil tanks welded together. Once taken to land, the wood is air dried.

"You can't force the water out," Geelen said.

The dried logs are then milled into pulp, lumber and value-added products on-site by the lakeside.

Lakewood employs between 20 to 40 people for harvesting and around 60 people inside the mill. James Rakochy is Lakewood's senior forester. He started harvesting Ootsa for Canfor, which tried underwater logging for several years before pulling out. In May 1999 Lakewood stepped in.

"It takes a lot of perseverance," he said.

Rakochy said underwater wood is currently being studied for cell-structure decay, but he swears by the wood's quality.

"I've built my front porch out of it," he said. "I'd be willing to bet there isn't a person around who can tell the difference."

Besides being Lakewood's senior forester, Rakochy is also a Cheslatta band member. Before the Kenney dam was built, the Cheslatta was a close-knit community of trappers who hunted elk and caribou in the area.

Their traditional way of life was disrupted when the area was flooded and they were displaced over hundreds of kilometres, Rakochy said.

"Their whole way of life was disrupted," he said, "They basically broke up their whole social structure."

Now, the Cheslatta band owns the timber beneath the lake and issued Lakewood its five-year operating license.

Local wildlife has adapted to the transformed landscape. The area has one of the largest populations of Osprey, a bird with dark-brown and white feathers that is sometimes mistaken for a bald eagle in North America. The Osprey build their nests atop of partially submerged trees, providing an ideal base for hunting the rainbow trout swimming in the lake, Rakochy said.

Lakewood leaves a buffer area around their nests, he added.

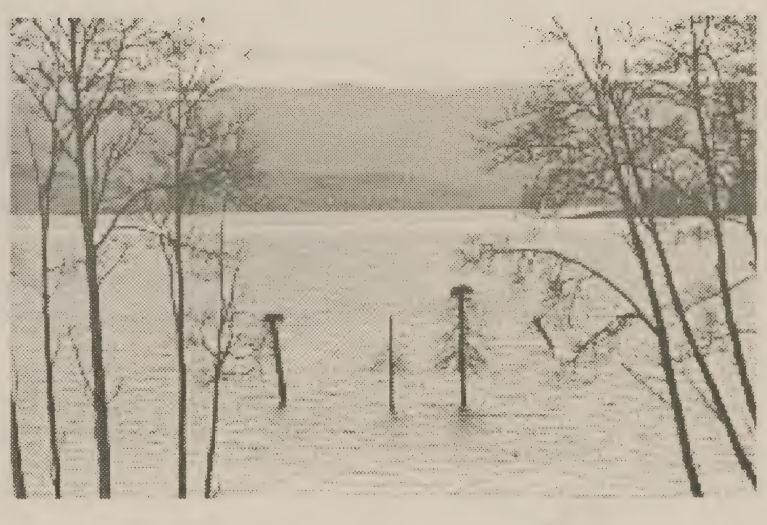
Beaver have also adapted. On land they gnaw trees at their base but in Ootsa they do the opposite, starting at the submerged treetop and working their way to the bottom.

Jim Snetsinger, Regional Manager of Prince Rupert Forest Region, estimates there are at least seven million cubic metres of wood beneath Ootsa, but "there could be more," he added. Stumpage is cheap, at 25 cents a log, and because the wood is considered salvaged, it's not included under a company's annual allowable cut (AAC).

"It's not a piece of the counted land base," he said.

Geelen estimates they'll spend another three to five years logging the shallow areas but he knows sooner or later they'll need to move on to deeper parts of the lake.

"We're always looking at new ways to go deep," he



said. In B.C. several companies are using technology to make these deep-water forests accessible for logging.

In Victoria, Triton Logging is a research and development company that has designed a prototype remotely operational vehicle (ROV) to harvest underwater forests. The ROV is bright yellow, the size of a minivan, and Triton CEO Chris Godsall believes it will make underwater logging more eco-friendly and cost-effective.

Controlled from the surface, the ROV is steered through the water by a single operator, aided by seven infrared cameras and a sonar system. The ROV is designed to grasp the base of submerged trees, draw itself close and cut with its 46-inch chainsaw. It then attaches an airbag to the tree, which should provide enough lift to send the tree to the surface.

Triton's harvester recently completed its first field tests, successfully raising several submerged pier pilings in November. The next series of tests will be carried out in Ootsa Lake later this year. Still, Geelen is skeptical of high-tech solutions to underwater logging, which so far have achieved a legacy of failure.

Geelen remembers one machine that was tested in Ootsa several years ago, which crawled like an insect along the lake bottom and cut trees at their base. Unfortunately, it was unable to navigate through the tangle of tree-limbs, often became stuck and in the end only cut a fraction of the wood anticipated.

Another prototype was tested in Kinbasket Lake, 100 kilometres north of Revelstoke, which used technology similar to Triton's ROV. Named ROSCO, it also grasped submerged trees and cut them with a chainsaw, but it was much smaller than the Triton ROV and couldn't raise logs to the surface by itself. Instead, a crane was used to pull them out of the lake. Like with the crawler, the results were disappointing.

"Too much technology isn't good down there," Geelen said, who has seen the tangle of branches and fallen trees firsthand, where visibility is quickly reduced to zero when the algae coating the trees are disturbed.

But another B.C.-based company has already shown that underwater logging and technology can be combined with success. Aquatic Cellulose is currently harvesting submerged forests in Brazil, using a bendable robotic arm that can reach depths of 60 feet, aided by cameras and sonar to cut trees at their base and pull them to the surface. The company is currently harvesting the Tucurui reservoir, where they're recovering submerged Brazil nut wood, mahogany, ipe and jatoba.

Godsall counts Aquatic Cellulose as one of his main competitors but he believes his system has several advantages. He said while an articulated arm needs to be lowered and raised every time it harvests a log, the ROV could feasibly stay on the lake bottom until it uses all 40 of the airbags it's equipped to carry. While Cellulose is limited to depths that its arm can reach, Triton's harvester is only limited by the length of the umbilical that connects the ROV to its power and compressed-air supply at the surface.

"It's the world's first deepwater underwater harvester," he said.

He is also confident the machine can log more safely and with a lower environmental impact than low-tech methods of harvesting wood, such as Lakewood's current method of pulling trees from the lake bottom. In other countries, like Vietnam, Laos and Brazil, underwater forests are currently being logged by divers with hydraulic chainsaws, a practice Godsall says is both inefficient and unsafe.

"It's very dangerous," he said. "You won't find anybody doing it in Canada."

The technology Godsall has developed is neither inexpensive nor simple to use. He is unwilling to disclose the cost of the Triton ROV but said a standard working-class ROV costs around three million dollars. The operation of the harvester is also very complicated.

"It's one of the most demanding ROV systems ever created," he said.

However, Godsall considers training others to operate the harvester is part of his business, and like Aquatic Cellulose, Godsall plans to develop the technology in B.C. but has global ambitions.

He is careful to emphasize he doesn't advocate damming projects or their social and environmental consequences. Instead, he sees underwater logging as an opportunity to reclaim a lost resource and reduce the market pressures to log terrestrial trees.

"We're reclaiming trees that are dead, but hope to meet the current demand for wood products," he said.

But like the technology itself, underwater logging's environmental impact is yet to be proven.

Jill Thompson is concerned that, left unchecked, the logging industry will harvest this new timber source without decreasing the number of terrestrial trees cut.

"The forest industry will want it all," she said, pointing to current practices, which she said are unsustainable.

With an estimated 40,000 major damming projects around the globe, the underwater logging industry could be worth as much as $25 billion.

Godsall hopes his ROV will help pioneer this industry and remains optimistic it will prevent living trees from being cut in the future.

"A lot of us became involved because we wanted to make a difference," Godsall said of himself and his co-workers.

all photos provided

Bum's the word – musicians pay tribute to Victoria rockers

by Robin Platts

You don't have to be famous to be the subject of a tribute cd.

In the early '90s when the "tribute album" phenomenon began, the artists chosen were inevitably big names: John Lennon, Leonard Cohen, Led Zeppelin and Elton John. Now that virtually every big act has had its own cd homage, some lesser-known talents are getting their due.

The latest is Bum, a Victoria power pop/rock quartet who created a sensation in the mid-90s. Bum's high-energy sound will be resurrected on the upcoming cd *I Said Sometimes!*

The cd is the brainchild of Gareth Gaudin, 29, a local comic book artist, who will release the disc on his Magic Teeth Records label. The label began five years ago, when Gaudin decided to include a record with one of his Magic Teeth comics. A huge fan of Bum, he opted to make the record a 7" single of some of the group's unreleased songs.

"I'm their biggest fan," said Gaudin, "and what better way to get close to your heroes than to release their stuff?" Several more vinyl releases followed but this May Magic Teeth will unleash the Bum tribute as its first compact disc.

Bum first appeared in 1990. The band's energetic melodic rock made them favourites on the local club scene and relentless touring won them a cult following throughout Canada and the United States. They also achieved some celebrity status in Spain, where they were picked up by Munster Records and played to enthusiastic crowds. They seemed poised for major success but split up in the mid-'90s, not long after the release of their first cd *Wanna Smash Sensation*.

Although Bum isn't exactly a household name, Gaudin had no trouble finding artists to participate in the tribute album.

"Everyone who's involved is as big a Bum fan as I am," he said. "The hard work was getting the info out to everyone and then making sure everyone got the songs that they were most suited for and happy to record."

Gaudin quickly signed up some big indie rock names. The presence of alternative rock heroes such as the Fastbacks and the Young Fresh Fellows will certainly guarantee the disc some sales, but the clincher may be the presence of alt-country darling Neko Case.

"The Fastbacks have been one of my favourite bands for years," said Gaudin. "They make me the most excited just because of who they are and the impact that they've made on me and the musical community over the past 22 years. When Neko Case agreed to be on it, I was on the moon."

So how do these cover versions compare to the Bum originals?

"There are a few covers, like The Stand G.T. doing 'I Hardly Breathe' and Marshall Artist doing 'At The Well,' that are pretty straight forward tributes," Gaudin explained. "Run Chico Run, Marcus Pollard, Jim Bryson, and The Lisa Marr Experiment, however, are vastly different from the originals and they add new dimensions to the songs which, quite frankly, I didn't think could be possible."

Gaudin promises a wide variety of musical styles on the cd from rock to country to electronica to new wave and punk.

"It's an eclectic mix," he said. The highlight of the cd may be "The Eternal Ideal" by Victoria country crooner Carolyn Mark. Gaudin said that track "will be a Top 10 single for sure. Wait 'til you hear it. My God!"

Other acts include local artists such as Pigment Vehicle and bands from as far away as Japan (the Wimpys), Spain (No Crom) and Australia (Mach Pelican).

So what do Bum themselves think of the tribute? The group's singer/songwriter/guitarist Rob Nesbitt is very pleased.

"I feel proud," Nesbitt said. "I feel flattered that these people care about the music as much as they obviously do."

"When I first heard about it, I didn't know what to expect," Nesbitt admitted, adding jokingly, "I thought it might seem even more dumb and amateurish than we did as a band!"

Hearing the finished tracks put Nesbitt's mind at ease. "In some cases, they improved the songs," he said. "Hearing the songs outside the context of the group made me realize that they are valid. It made them seem more tangible and real."

Nesbitt was impressed by the way some of the artists reworked the Bum songbook. "Some of them bear no resemblance to the originals," he said with delight.

I Said Sometimes! – A Tribute to Bum will hit stores in May.

For more information, visit the Magic Teeth web site: http://magicteeth.tripod.com/.

UBC student travels the winding road to vj fame

by Kim Thé

VANCOUVER (CUP) – "Oh, my God! It's him . . . it's Aaron Strate, the new MuchMusic vj!" squealed a gaggle of wide-eyed girls when they spotted the lanky, red-headed Vancouverite.

With his long hair and 'shabby' dress, Strate could easily pass as a member for either of his two favourite bands, Weezer or The Strokes.

Between Arts One homework, press interviews, shifts at York Fresh Pizza and monthly performances with UBC's Improv Theatre Club, Strate has managed to meet me for a short interview on campus. While sitting on the patio of the Pendulum restaurant, the 18-year old UBC student is cool, candid, but also animated; "Oh God . . . I was into the Mini Pops! I listened to [them] a lot . . . Wake me up, before you go-go!"

While his music collection may have once included the likes of the Mini Pops and Fred Penner, Strate's musical tastes have changed a lot since then. When I asked him what some of his favourite albums are, the response varied: Air's *10,000 Hertz Legend*, Weezer's *Pinkerton*, Radiohead's *OK Computer*, Beta Band's *Hot Shots Part 2* and Beastie Boys' *Sounds of Science*.

There are many sides to Strate – he will, after all, admit that he "can rock to Garth Brooks from time to time."

Born in Calgary, Strate moved to Vancouver with his parents and three older siblings when he was two-years old. Although his mom liked jazz and his dad "unfortunately liked country," five year-old Strate's musical sensibility developed after he stole his sister's tape of *Van Morrison's Greatest Hits*. He played it over and over and tracks like "Brown Eyed Girl" quickly replaced his previous affection for Penner tunes.

But, like most kids, an interest in music gave his eager parents an excuse to sign him up for piano lessons. While Strate remembers hating those lessons, he eventually learned to deal with his misery in order to make his mother happy. The one good thing about the tedium of practising piano is that he can still "play a mean 'Bohemian Rhapsody.'"

Piano lessons, as dreadful as they were, led Strate to discover a love for playing guitar, drums and "dumb little pick-up instruments" like the harmonica. Strate even formed a band with some of his friends called Spider Jones and the Brainiacs.

For a music-lover, Strate's concert-going career started late. At 13, Strate and his buddies stealthily crawled under the bleachers onto the floor and rushed the stage of the PNE forum to thrash to the hip-hop sounds of The Beastie Boys' Hello Nasty tour and the opening act, A Tribe Called Quest.

Although Strate loves music, before being chosen as a MuchMusic vj it was just a hobby. His dream was to be a filmmaker a la P.T. Anderson (*Boogie Nights*), Wes Anderson (*Rushmore, The Royal Tenenbaums*) or Darren Aronofsky (*Requiem for a Dream*) – filmmakers who don't always conform to the mainstream.

But strangely, one of his favourite films – the first one he saw in theatres – is *Ghostbusters*, which he's watched at least 18 times.

Strate has also dabbled in acting. In his last years at Lord Byng Secondary, Strate was the head of the Improv Team and had a memorable part as Balthasar, "the swingin' ladies man," in Shakespeare's comedy *Much Ado About Nothing*.

He was first able to explore his love for filmmaking with projects like his grade nine claymation short entitled *How to keep your pants on without a belt*, starring a blue clay blob with chunky arms and pennies for eyes. He has since dabbled in digital media and has made some fun films with his friends under the company name, Propaganda for Smart Boys, which can be seen on the Web at Propagandaweb.ca.

Strate's ambitions took a small detour last year when he applied for the film program at Ryerson and wasn't accepted. He attributes that to a "portfolio [that] wasn't good enough." So instead he opted for the Arts One program at UBC.

Strate's claim to MuchMusic fame began with a bet at the family dinner table. Known for his keenness, but also for his procrastination, his sister Lindsay bet him that he wouldn't make a video for MuchMusic's vj contest.

Strate had seen several ads aired on tv about the MuchMusic VJ Search 2002 but missed vj Bradford's stop at the Pacific Centre mall in September because of a geography lab. He forgot about the contest until his sister made the bet.

He proved her wrong by making a video in three weeks. It included an interview with the "Duck Lady" who frequents Robson Street with her pet duck and is known for throwing birthday parties for homeless men.

After rushing his video to meet the Dec. 31 deadline, Strate again forgot about the contest until he received a phone call two weeks later from vj Bradford, congratulating him on being one of the eight finalists chosen from

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UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

Striving for higher-level performance

by Katrina Sark

It is late Friday night and Zara Taylor and I are sitting at a corner table at Moka House with two big white mugs of tea. The red Catwoman shirt she's wearing states: "Where there is a whip, there is a way!" Born and raised in Victoria, Taylor is a student at the Canadian College of Performing Arts (CCPA).

"I always wanted to be a performer", she said, taking a sip of green tea. "Now I'm taking guitar lessons and writing songs." Just recently she finished recording background vocals for the new St. Vitus dance cd (a newcomer artist from Victoria) and will be appearing in the music video released at Sugar Nightclub on March 11.

Zara Taylor completed her role as lead actress in *Tangible Thought*, an independent film produced by Cinester Productions and written and directed by Cosmo Means.

"It is a drama-comedy about a writer, writing about a writer, and how life affects our writing and it's partly filmed at UVic."

How does one get the leading role in an independent film?

"I ran into one of the producers here at the Moka House one day. He knew I was studying at CCPA , I knew him just from living in Victoria my whole life. Two months later he called and asked me to read for the part. I never expected to be the lead actress, but the experience was amazing – it sparked a love for screen acting."

Taylor models on the side. She has walked down the catwalks in Eatons and at the Bay, and was the Victoria Colgate Sensational Smile Winner.

"You can see me on the side of a bus, advertising the PATCH, and on the Bay posters posing in bathing suits."

Her favourite thing about performing arts is gaining inspiration from creative and talented people.

"Every day is exciting. The possibilities are endless, it's a constant challenge to reach a higher level," said Taylor.

Her greatest motivation to improve comes from her love for music, poetry and especially for life. "It all makes me want to dance," she said with a big smile.

In her free time, Taylor is involved in community life. She has volunteered for "Roch with Respect" which involved visiting high schools and hosting a campaign against violence against women.

"I thought it was important to get the message across that it is important to be respectful. And I wanted the message to come from a peer," she said.

What inspires her creativity? Her sensitivity to what goes on inside and outside her own world.

"One's work is the reflection of knowing oneself. I am always in love with something," said Taylor.

She strives for balance between her two contradicting sides, perpetually torn between the magic energy of performance and the down-to-earth simplicity of an artist.

Future plans? Taylor is about to audition for her second year at CCPA (they only accept approximately 10 students). Her focus will be music. Some words of inspiration to fellow artists: "You get out of life what you put into it, and if you think of the light, your next step will be into the light."

Taylor performs at the Macpherson Playhouse on April 27 and 28 in a review show with the College of Performing Arts.

As we finish our teas, her eyes sparkle from under her long eyelashes and she can't stop smiling.

photo by Benjamin Moore

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over 2000 videos.

MuchMusic flew all the finalists to Toronto. Once there they got to play – they danced on Electric Circus, interviewed random pedestrians and competed in a trivia contest hosted by *Kids in the Hall* star Scott Thompson.

After two days of competition Strate was prepared to politely smile and shake hands with the winner but was once again surprised when he was declared the new MuchMusic vj. Strate attributes his success to being comfortable with himself in front of the camera.

Although he's excited to live out a surreal experience as a MuchMusic vj and receive all the perks – including a fully subsidised and furnished apartment in downtown Toronto for three months – Strate realises that his choice to relocate has already affected his friendships.

Although he'll be able to pack his father's acoustic guitar and his digital camera, he won't be able to take along his best friend, Jonathan Loewen.

My interview with Strate ends on a note equally as strange as the one it started on. Strate confesses to me one of his fantasies – nothing sick, although slightly perverse – he would love to perform a musical stint for *Showtime* at The Apollo in New York City, where amateur musicians parade their talent, or lack thereof, and await the praise, or abusive contempt, of the audience.

But really, why would Strate want to risk getting booed off stage at The Apollo, when in real life, he is now famous enough to attract swarms of squealing girls wherever he walks?

Nelly Furtado helps Estrofest fly

by Heather Neale

photo provided

Carolyn Neapole continues to support Estrofest despite negative feedback

Estrofest 2002, set to take the stage at Steamer's Pub Friday night, has been refused sponsorship from several mainstream businesses.

Apparently feminism is intimidating to the corporate world. One unnamed music outlet in town even ignored a first request for help and when called again said, "Oh I thought it was a joke."

Joy Wickens, organizer of Estrofest, was very happy with the support of smaller alternative businesses, not to mention eight local talented musicians, all eager to get involved. "It inspired a sense of community in me," said Wickens.

Singer and songwriter Carolyn Neapole, one of the eight acts to perform Friday, has heard it all. A well-known local headlining musician who has taken part in Estrofest since it began three years ago, Neapole was saddened by the negative feedback from people in general.

"Estrofest, what the hell's that?" said Neapole, as an example of one person's reaction. In the weeks leading up to the event, she has received mixed responses from people who balk at the title, automatically associating it with militant male-bashing. It's anything but that.

"I have enough of a hard time convincing people I do not fit certain stereotypes just by being a female musician who is not afraid to perform on her own," said Neapole.

Estrofest is a chance for female musicians to meet up and play music for everyone, acknowledge their successes and raise money for charity. There is nothing here to apologize for.

"I feel sad that we can't have a day, regardless of the cause, for a group of people that historically has needed recognition for the fact that they have been treated unacceptably," said Neapole. "When someone is asking for the rights they deserve, we don't need to be threatened by that."

In its first year Estrofest raised $500 for Women In Need. The following year yielded $1,500 for Meals on Wheels and this year the goal is to raise $5,000. The money will be used to set up a UVic scholarship for a non-women's studies major, to take a course from the women's studies department.

"Everyone has a woman somewhere in their life that they care about," said Neapole. "If there is anyone who has a misconception about what Estrofest is about, I would encourage them to check it out. It's a celebration."

After much effort, Wickens hit a jackpot Monday night when Nelly Furtado offered to come on board and match sponsorship up to $2,500. With this additional financial support the night will fly despite hesitancy and negativity from some.

"If I had to do it all over again, the only thing I might reconsider is the name," said Wickens, noting that the use of 'Estro' immediately conjures up a certain image. Wickens felt positive overall though. "The local businesses have been great," she said.

Estrofest 2002 kicks off at 8 p.m at Steamers this Friday and features Big Muff, DJ Sarah Hannah, April 'O', Kia, Veronica Tangent, Cara McCandless, the Tin River Trio, and Carolyn Neapole. Tickets are available on campus at the women's studies department office, and at Steamers and Vancouver Island Brewery.

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Tongue piercings blamed for causing infections

by Kevin Masterson

photo by Graham Winterbottom

LONDON (CUP) — The near death of a young Ajax, Ontario, woman has been blamed on her tongue ring.

The 20-year-old Wilfrid Laurier University student developed abscesses on her brain that contained bacteria found in her mouth. Her doctors have pointed to her tongue piercing as the most likely cause of the abscesses. She needed brain surgery to remove the abscesses and a piece of her skull to help control the swelling.

"With any type of procedure on the body, getting it done right and taking care of it correctly are very important," said London, Ontario piercist Cass Vender. "Tongues are high-maintenance. You have to get educated."

Vender believes the media hasn't treated the issue fairly.

"I think [the media] sensationalized it 100 per cent," said Vender. "The Ajax girl got her piercing done in France. The only thing I've known to be factual is an infection in a certain part of the heart. That happens because the person has a preexisting condition they were not aware of. Any infection can cause that."

Even the medical experts contacted by Toronto media point out that only one other case of brain abscesses has ever been linked to a tongue piercing.

"People can have an allergic reaction to certain metals," said Vender. "I do a slight medical history prior to the work. I mainly check for metal sensitivity and medical allergies. I also check to see if they have any medical condition that might be problematic."

Vender said a person has to treat their piercing with care to avoid infection.

Lindsay Halliday, a student at London's Fanshawe College, said her tongue piercing has never been cause for concern.

"I was never worried about my tongue piercing," Halliday said. "I've heard a lot of myths about things that can go wrong but I would say they are just myths."

Fellow student Terri Burton agreed.

"You are given instructions on how to take care of it," said Burton. "I feel it's perfectly safe."

Get your Buck's worth

by Miranda Post

"Thanks for your art," said dj Buck on Sunday night. It's been a long time since I laughed my ass off during an interview, let alone been thanked for doing something that I love: poking into other people's lives, trying to interpret their personality and their art through words.

From somewhere underneath the 'Marine Layer,' LA's thick, infamous smog/fog, dj Buck took some time out of his busy schedule to chat about the decadence of LA, his music, his love of record shopping in Canada and his luck. He wouldn't let me use a voice recorder for the interview and admitted to a preference for e-mail queries but then shot the shit for an hour and a half.

This is what fans love about Buck. He doesn't take himself seriously but he produces some serious beats. He's one of the founders of Leaf Recordings (Graham Boothby and Litte T are the other partners) and his music manages to balance his sense of humour and love for the eclectic. Imagine a healthy fusion of So'Cal basslines, vocals and acrylic keys and you have a Buck-boogie-a-thon.

"I guess I'll just be a bastard and say that the music I produce is dance music," he replied when I tried to corner him into an electronic pigeonhole.

Nowadays, Buck is not jaded when it comes to journalists. Until recently he refused interviews but now at 31, Buck is more forward with his media relations. After all, he's living in the den of PR debauchery, Hollywood, California.

His recent productions, like the key-infused, porno-pop *Make it Hot* or percussive banger *Bump*, both on Siesta Records, have made dance music fans go berserk from Jakarta to Jo'burg. Dj Buck's been tickling the lacquer for over a decade getting his first big breaks at Toon Town in San Francisco playing alongside Jeno, Doc Martin and Ernie Munson.

His UK break was in Bath at The Universe Tribal Gathering in front of a paltry crowd of 12,000. Since then he has lived in San Francisco, Vancouver and now Hollywood.

Chumming around with old hats like "Doc" and dj Garth, Buck is humble yet focused, funny yet serious. Here are a few examples:

Buck on boating: Last time I came to Victoria I got really sick on the ferry over.

(Me: Me too. I get seasick on little boats.)

Buck: Little boats. Ha! If I took a little boat it would be a vomit-fest!

Buck on bars: I'm more of a shitty bar, kind of guy . . . er, I guess character is the word . . . I'd rather dirty hippies rocking it out on the dance platforms [than bar-stars or wannabe strippers].

Buck on touring: I don't remember a lot from my last visits to [Victoria]. Sometimes they blur into one big pile-o-gig.

Buck on record shopping in the big CAN: It's great to shop for records in Canada. Because of some weird Canadian music laws there is a plethora of good music. Every time I go record shopping there I nearly shit my pants!

Buck on raves: The rave scene as we know it suffers in quality. They're uninspired. I've done it – I've played some really good parties.

Buck on his dj sets: I play dance music. I'll play something that is like 15-22 years old and then play something next that's like, fuck, 22 hours old.

Buck on moving from SF to LA: San Francisco was getting way too trendy. I thought, "well, if my working environment is gonna be trendy, I might as well go to the capital of trendy." I don't regret moving here. Except LA is fucking ugly.

Buck on luck: I'm totally lucky. Success in art has so much to do with luck, not necessarily talent.

Fortunately Buck not only has a horseshoe stuck up his ass, he has got the talent, humour and personality to go with it. Thank you for your art Mr. Buck.

Catch this lucky boy playing thanks to Downlow Productions at Level on Friday, March 8. Tix $10.

photos by Zen Zizekewa

Campus culture calendar

VISUAL ARTS

The Painted Landscape
The Maltwood Art Museum & Gallery presents an exhibit of landscape paintings by five Canadian artists. Feb. 20 - March 21 @ Mc Pherson Library Gallery.

'Influence' and 'this is the end...'
'Influence' displays painting works from Ontario to British Columbia; 'this is the end' displays the various techniques used in printmaking It also marks the end of UVic's printmaking department. Thursday, March 7, 7:30 p.m. @Visual Arts Bldg.

The House of Mirrors
A visual arts installation of 26 full-length mirrors onto which women, girls and artists have portrayed the impact of media, diet, fashion, and cosmetic surgery. Feb. 18 - March 22 @ Maltwood Art Museum in the University Centre
Free admission

MUSIC

Fridaymusic
School of Music students in a programme for various instruments. Friday, March 8, 12:30 p.m. @ Phillip T. Young Recital Hall.
Admission by donation.

Faculty Recital
Helmut Brauss (piano) performs at the Phillip T. Young Recital Hall on Sunday, March 10, 2:30 p.m.
Admission: $12, $8

University of Victoria Orchestra
Conducted by Janos Sandor, the orchestra will play music by Prokofiev (Lieutenant Kije Suite, Op.60), and Beethoven (Symphony No. 8 in F, Op.83). Friday, March 8, 8 p.m.
Admission: $12, $8

PERFORMING ARTS

Peer Gynt
UVicTheatre Department presents Henrik Ibsen's 19th century classic comedy, Peer Gynt, directed by Brian Richmond. March 14 - 30, Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., matinee performance on Sat., March 23 at 2 p.m. Admission: $18; half price ($9) for students excluding Friday and Saturday nights.

GENERAL

Arts Net Night
Meet, network and socialize with art community peers. Monday, March 18, 7 p.m. @ 77 Gorge Rd. West in the social room of Cedar Shores complex.
Admission: $5 for members; $8

submit your event info to martletart@yahoo.ca.

CD REVIEWS

by Liv Brekke

Robin Black & the Intergalactic Rock Stars
Planet: Fame
Sextant Records

"Once upon a time five otherworldly creatures time travelled to planet Earth. Their mission: to save Canadian music." Spurred on by their zealous hatred of contemporary Canuck music (Our Lady Peace and Matt Good being popular targets) as well as their intense loathing of the industry in general, Robin Black & the I.R.S. offer up their first major-label release *Planet: Fame*.

The tracks laid down by this fab five form an interesting musical spectrum, ranging from the slow sweetness of "Take Myself Away" to the hard-hitting punk anthem "Teenage Sex" to the straight-up rock 'n' roll of "Time Travel Tonite." Although musically the album offers nothing of mind-blowing proportions, in terms of musicality all the tracks are solidly groove-worthy.

What's distinctive, on the other hand, is the vocal style of Robin Black. Prepare yourself – Black's voice is exceptionally irritating (and wondrously girlie) at first listen. But after the first couple of tracks your spine readjusts to account for his nails-on-a-chalkboard-type crooning. And once you hear him scream you'll be hooked.

If this bizarre blend of wussiness and machismo doesn't suck you in (but really, what are the odds), the cd insert definitely will. It supplies the curious listener with amusingly facetious, if not quite factual, biographies of these five intergalactic stars. You just can't hate a group that goes to THAT much effort to promote such outrageous personas.

Yet the question remains, are Robin Black and his glam gang of "effeminate" rockers the messiahs of Canadian music? Regrettably no. However, in an era when mainstream Canadian music is dominated by folk singers and their glorified electric counterparts, Robin Black & the I.R.S. offer a self-indulgent, in-your-face approach to rock that, if not revolutionary, is at least extremely refreshing.

See them live when Robin Black & the Intergalactic Rock Stars' spaceship lands at Lucky Bar on March 19.

Alanis Morissette
Under Rug Swept
Warner

First there was *Jagged Little Pill* and its unbridled guitar-driven angst towards the opposite sex. Then came *Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie* with its soft melodic philosophizing about self-

actualization. Now there is *Under Rug Swept* – the logical hybrid of these two very different styles, blending the subject matter of Alanis Morissette's first album with the musical styling of the second.

On this, her third full-length album, Morissette tackles relationship issues with more sophistication and complexity than in her previous work. Although most of her songs speak strongly to 'female' experience, on *Under Rug Swept* Morissette creates a more collective appeal in her lyrics.

Lines like "I can feel so unsexy for someone so beautiful . . . so ignorant for someone of sound mind" are bound to resonate with any listener. And in the track "A Man" Morissette even adopts a 'masculine' persona – an effort which compliments the ambiguities and complexities of the lyrics in general.

Musically, *Under Rug Swept* contrasts eerily beautiful moments (supplied by haunting piano melodies and Morissette's uncanny voice) with heavier, rhythm-based songs. From time to time these two styles are incorporated into one song, such as "Hands Clean." By and large the music is exquisite, although certain saccharine tracks, especially "Utopia," may lead you to check the liner notes in search of a possible Sarah McLachlan credit.

Bottom line: a very passionate and moving album. But remember, as with any sugary-sweet product too much of this good thing will leave your teeth aching. Best enjoyed in moderation.

All Souls Day relives a European story

by Katrina Sark

All Souls Day
Cees Nooteboom
Harcourt

All Souls Day is a Catholic holiday during the first days of November. It is the time to remember the dead. (As if you need a legitimate excuse to forget about them for the rest of the year – but who said traditions have to make sense?) It is the time to be sad and rage about the unfairness with which life likes to treat us.

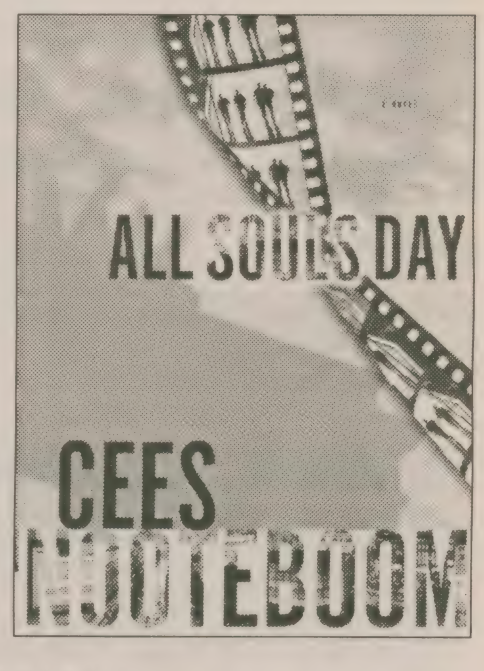
But the book is not really about that. It is about continental Europe – a philosophical blend of its history, its symbols, its languages, the way everything is connected and intertwined and drawn through the decades to emerge in the new age as a world so complex that we can only catch a glimpse of it.

That is the problem that Arthur Daane has to face throughout the book.

As a Dutch documentary filmmaker, he is invited into the soul of one of Europe's captivating giants, Berlin. As he walks through the snowy streets with romantic names, a world unfolds in his mind that is a product of his memory, imagination, creativity, perception and reflection of the things around him. In the back of his mind he constantly searches for ideas for a new creation. On the surface he is contemplating how history affects human lives, how the buildings of a city can be read like books, revealing their secrets. In his heart he is mourning the deaths of his wife and son, all the while receiving images of Berlin like a camera.

The book is filled with symbols and details that come together like pieces of a puzzle and leave you with the images of a whole culture. A little bookstore on the corner of a snow-covered street, people coming in and out of the ALDI superstore, lunch at a Gasthaus with a host called Schulze, Zwiebelbrötchen (onion bread), a glass of warmed Glühwein (hot wine) in a quiet cafe, the shadow of the Wall, a fascination with Spain and so much history that you begin to feel transparent, slowly disappearing under the heaviness of time.

To quote the narrator: "At such moments he seemed to turn into the city itself, to pour forth its memories – a political murder, a roundup, a book-burning, the spot where Rosa Luxemburg had been thrown into the Landwehr Canal, the exact point the Russians had advanced to in 1945. He read the city like a book, a story of unseen buildings swallowed up by history – Gestapo torture chambers, the barren stretch of land where Hitler's plane had been able to land up to the very last day, everything told in a continuos, almost chanted recitative."



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The choreography ...is varied in style and dynamics. Sometimes it is fast, darting and avian. Other times it is tranquil, almost static. THE NATIONAL POST

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UVic men's field hockey takes it to the Shield

by Iain McLetchie

After coasting through the early rounds of the Newcastle Shield Field Hockey tournament, the UVic men's team came up against a wall in the quarter finals.

That wall was India A, a team highly regarded as the top club side in North America.

The vaunted Bindi Kullar, who UVic men's field hockey coach Rick Underwood described as "Canada's very best player," leads the deep and talented India A.

Kullar is a name well-known to field hockey fans throughout the world but is an unknown entity in Canada, something Underwood couldn't help commenting on.

"It's funny," said Underwood. "In this country he's completely unknown, but little kids in India absolutely idolize him."

UVic knew they were in for a hard match. The team's main objective was to keep Kullar from taking over the game, but it was a task easier said than done.

While the attacking India A side began to notch goals early, UVic goalie Nick Blitterswyk's "highlight reel" saves kept the game within reach.

On one play Kullar slapped what Underwood called "a 90 mile per hour rocket," which looked like an easy goal. However, Bitterswyk reached a blocker behind his head to stop the ball and protect his net.

"After the game everyone who watched were in awe of G-Ride's [Blitterswyk's] saves," said Underwood.

Unfortunately for UVic, Blitterswyk's heroics weren't enough to keep them in the Newcastle Shield. India A created several offensive opportunities and took the Vikes 4-1.

Underwood took the loss and ousting from the tournament all in stride.

"We played very well," he said. "So [we're] out of the tournament but still have a great shot at winning the First Division."

Winning the division would leave the team in good shape to move up to the B.C. Premier league for next season, something Underwood said was a distinct possibility even if the team didn't win their league.

"I can't see anything stopping UVic from moving up to the top flight next season," he stated. "Most of the clubs in the B.C. Premier league will vote us in as we have already beaten UBC and Panthers FHC, both of whom are at the bottom of the Premier standings."

The team is also racking up individual honours, particularly with the naming of Connor Grimes to the Senior National Team for a tour in April.

Grimes, who Underwood labeled as "one of the very best varsity athletes in the country, of any sport," also has a shot at attending the Commonwealth Games with the Canadian National Team this summer.

Roger Ebert for a day

by Iain McLetchie

graphic by Joanna Wong

As the Oscar's roll around again we see more and more of Roger Ebert giving his "thumbs up" and "thumbs down" to movies. What we never seem to see is sports columnists giving due accolades and lemons to recent events in the world of sports.

As such, it seemed a good thought to enlighten the rest of the world as to the good and the bad in our sporting universe.

So, hold on to your popcorn. It's going to be a bumpy ride.

Thumbs up to the UVic men's basketball team for being selected as the wildcard entry for the Canada West Final Four tournament this weekend in Edmonton. The lads have been solid all year despite a slew of injuries and now that they're healthy, they deserve the chance to inflict some pain in Alberta's capital.

Thumbs down to the conference for not naming Eric Rushton and Regan Daly . . . aw hell, the whole team, to the inaugural Canada West All-Hair team. Methinks once Regan got his hair shorn, his chances for making this squad were shot.

Thumbs up to Theo Fleury and Mario Lemieux for their scintillating performances in the Salt Lake Olympics.

Thumbs down to Theo and Mario for their post-Olympic hijinks. Fleury has been complaining non-stop about refs picking on him and is threatening to play in Europe next season if he isn't given any respect. Mario, meanwhile, is out for the season with a bolloxed hip. I love Mario, but you can bet the fans in Pittsburgh don't think too much of him right now.

In fact, thumbs up to TSN for having televised CIS championships for quite a few years now. We need to see more Canadian University sports action on Canadian tv.

Thumbs up to the NHL and NBA as the two leagues are entering the early stages of their respective playoff races. Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton are in the thick of the race in the NHL, something hockey fans throughout western Canada are loving.

Thumbs down to Major League Baseball. Training camps are in full-swing and it's only early March. Take it easy guys. You've got all summer to swing those bats. And we don't need to see John Rocker on the tube so quickly.

Thumbs up to the Portland TrailBlazers for turning the ship around. The lads are on a 10-game win streak (as of Tuesday) and look pretty solid these days.

Thumbs down for a serious leg injury to Michael Jordan. He's been the story all year long in the NBA, turning around a terrible Washington franchise in near-storybook fashion. With a return date slated for late in the month, the curtain may have fallen on this tale and on Mike's chances for MVP – an honour he should have received.

Thumbs up to Headline Sports and TSN for showing the Canadian Intervarsity Sport (CIS) men's volleyball championships on Friday and Saturday of last weekend. As a volleyball fanatic, it does my blood good to see that calibre of ball on national television.

In fact, thumbs up to TSN for having televised CIS championships for quite a few years now. We need to see more Canadian University sports action on Canadian tv.

Thumbs up to the UVSS for holding its annual elections. This has nothing to do with sports, but it's lovely to see democracy in action on our beautiful campus.

Thumbs down to candidates walking into our classrooms and "encouraging" us to "get out and exercise your democratic right to vote." Come on, we all know you guys won't do anything different once you get in, so quit acting like you will.

All I really want on campus is a viable food source to be open on Sundays. Have you ever been studying in the library, gone to get some eats and found your only choices are rancid pizza at the SUB and day-old pastry at Finnerty's? I want good grub.

Thumbs up to the Dallas Mavericks for acquiring Nick Van Exel and Raef Lafrentz from the Denver Nuggets for a song and a prayer. Those two gunners make the Mavs the most exciting team in the NBA, bar none.

Thumbs down to the Toronto Raptors, who are seeing the wheels come off what was once a promising season. Maybe Vince needs to quit settling for outside jumpers and start driving to the hole like he used to.

Thumbs down, though, to shooting a 93 at Cordova Bay Golf Course despite birdieing the first hole. I, uh, hadn't played in quite a while.

Thumbs down to the great climate that allows us to engage in outdoor pursuits long before our snowed-in fellow Canadians can. Hold on, that's supposed to be a thumbs up. It's early March and we've been out tossing frisbees and playing golf for weeks now.

Thumbs down, though, to shooting a 93 at Cordova Bay Golf Course despite birdieing the first hole. I, uh, hadn't played in quite a while.

Thumbs up to the coming of March Madness – the greatest sporting event known to man. What time is it? Game time, hooo!

Thumbs down to Gonzaga no longer being referred to as a "Cinderella" story. The Bulldogs represent what sports are all about – competition, fair play and underdogs whupping the big dogs. Gonzaga is *Hoosiers*, the quintessential underdog story, come to life every year.

Thumbs up to CBS and Sportsnet showing all the games in the tournament.

Thumbs down to having to attend school during the tourney.

Thumbs up to the increased crowd attendance during Sunday night intramural hockey. Cowbells and horns make for a good ol' night of hockey.

Thumbs down to . . . no, forget it. There's no thumbs down to that. A night of hockey can't be beat, regardless of where it is.

So there you have it. Truly there are some amazing things going on in the world of sports these days, just as there are some less-than-sterling events.

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UVic rugby takes the Wightman Boot yet again

by Julia Smith

Doug Tate, UVic men's rugby coach, is proudly showing off an old rugby boot. The bronzed boot once belonged to an old UBC rugby coach but was stolen in 1967 to make the trophy for the annual series between UBC and UVic. UVic took the series once again this past weekend with a 34-11 victory to follow up an earlier victory in October.

"It's a long standing tradition," said Tate.

The Wightman Boot occupies a space in his office amongst the numerous other trophies. It's yet another sign that this is possibly the Vikes' best season yet.

This is their second year playing in the British Columbia Men's Premier league, one of the best leagues in Canada, but the team has adjusted quickly.

"It is much more physical [than university leagues]," said Tate. "It is a step up."

UVic competes against 10 other teams and finished in fourth-place their first season. Until exams start in April the team has a game every weekend. These games will determine whether they qualify for playoffs.

"It is a very competitive league. You don't go to the games knowing who is going to win," said Tate.

However, he does think the Vikes have a good chance at winning the Provincial Championship. The ground in April should be fast and dry; something that suits the Vikes' strategy.

"We keep it close to the end and then run them [the opposing team] around a bit," he said. "The men's league is talented but we try to chip away at them."

The strategy seems to work. The Vikes have won four of their last eight games in the closing minutes.

> Over the last year they've become very close, and part of it is we've been very successful. They play with confidence.
> *Doug Tate, UVic men's rugby coach*

Vikes' players have to be in excellent shape. Three times a year they are tested for speed, muscular endurance, aerobics and core body strength. Tate said the players know that "if they aren't fit they will be replaced."

They practice three times a week as "the body needs time to recover," Tate said, explaining that the premier league is extremely physical.

This year the team has been plagued with ankle injuries.

"It's kind of funny. Each year it's something different," said Tate. "This year it's ankles."

Luckily the injuries haven't been too crippling for the team but if they do cause a problem, the team can go to its reserve players.

When the Vikes are short Norseman players move up and get a chance to play at the more competitive level. The Norseman are strong this season and haven't lost a game yet, while UVic's Under-21 team, the Jutes, has only lost once.

Having three competitive teams (Vikes, Norseman and Jutes) who have collectively lost only six games this season gives UVic men's rugby unheard-of depth.

Tate occasionally has the Norseman play university matches scheduled for the Vikes as he tries to keep the Vikes' schedule below 30 games a season. The team also only plays on weekends and holidays so the players don't miss school.

This isn't easy with the combined Premier League, university games and occasional trips south.

The Vikes just returned from a reading break trip to California where they played against UC Davis, and won, but lost to Berkeley. Berkeley has been the US national collegiate champion 18 times in the last 20 years.

"We picked the wrong game to play poorly in. The guys were disappointed," said Tate.

Tate said that this has been one of the Vikes' strongest years.

"Some of these guys have played a lot of rugby together but they also come from a lot of different backgrounds."

About one-third of the team is from Vancouver Island and the rest are from various locations across the country. Tate points out this can cause a difference of style.

Five of the Vikes' players (Jeff Williams, Matt Cohen, Tim Barrett, Ed Fairhurst and Pat Bickerton) also play for national teams. Though this means the Vikes are short key players when the international events come up, Tate allows his athletes to go ahead.

"The experience they are getting, you can't put a price on it."

This points to one of the team's secrets, Tate said.

"They play as a group, not as individuals," he said. "Over the last year they've become very close, and part of it is we've been very successful. They play with confidence."

He thinks the Premier League is an excellent opportunity for the players. As for next year he said he doesn't makes predictions.

"You never know."

photo by Melissa Cook

Vikes line out against opposing sides from all over the province and country, as seen here, at Wallace Field.

Vikes set to cross the country for track nationals

by Ruth Knoop

After a successful showing two weeks ago at the Canada West Indoor Track Championships in Saskatoon, the UVic Track team is looking to continue their success this weekend at the Canadian Intervarsity Sport (CIS) Championships in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

With eight runners heading to the meet, head coach Brent Fougner has some realistic goals in his mind.

"Our goal," said Fougner, "is to come back with four medals: two individual and two relay."

The squad will be comprised of four women and four men. On the women's side are Larissa Managh, Andrea Depol, Nancy Fedoruk and Wendy Cocksedge.

With numerous injuries plaguing the women's team heading into Saskatoon, Fougner wasn't sure how they would perform. As well, Managh, who is currently doing her practicum in Fernie, had not been training in ideal weather conditions.

The injuries weren't a factor though as the team had a great meet, capped off by Managh's performance in the 1,500 metres, where she finished first with a time of four minutes, 38 seconds.

"It was a nice way for Larissa [who is graduating this year] to finish her Canada West play," said Fougner.

Depol rounded out the individual medals with a second-place finish in the 1,000.

The women's team will compete in the 4x800 event at the upcoming nationals, while Managh will run in the 1,500 and Depol will compete in the 1,000 event.

On the men's side, CIS cross-country MVP Jerry Ziak will lead a four-man contingent into Sherbrooke.

Heading into nationals, Ziak is ranked first nationally in the 3,000. He is also nominated and is a strong contender for the Canada West Athlete of the Year.

Fougner is looking forward to a strong showing from this talented distance runner, as well as one from Craig Babiuk, who is currently ranked second in the 1,000.

Babiuk, a third-year kinesiology student, won the 1,000 at the Canada West meet with a time of 2:28, while Ziak's time of 3:54 earned him second-place in the 1,500.

Scott Kennedy and Glenn Saqui will round out the men's team.

Kennedy, in particular, had a strong showing in Saskatoon, finishing fifth in the 1,000 and contributing to the men's fourth-place finish in the 4x800 relay.

"Scott Kennedy had a good weekend," stated Fougner. "It was a personal best for him."

The four men's runners will also compete in the 4x800 event.

Fougner was proud of his team, and specifically the men's performance, following the event.

"It was a great meet," said Fougner. "Our men's team had a solid weekend."

Winning will not come easy in Sherbrooke, though, for the simple reason that UVic focuses solely on cross-country running.

"UVic is definitely more of a cross-country school than a track and field [school]," said Fougner.

The program is primarily focused on distance running, as opposed to sprints and field events.

"We would love to have a full program, but with limited funding it's better to focus on doing a good job with a few athletes," said Fougner.

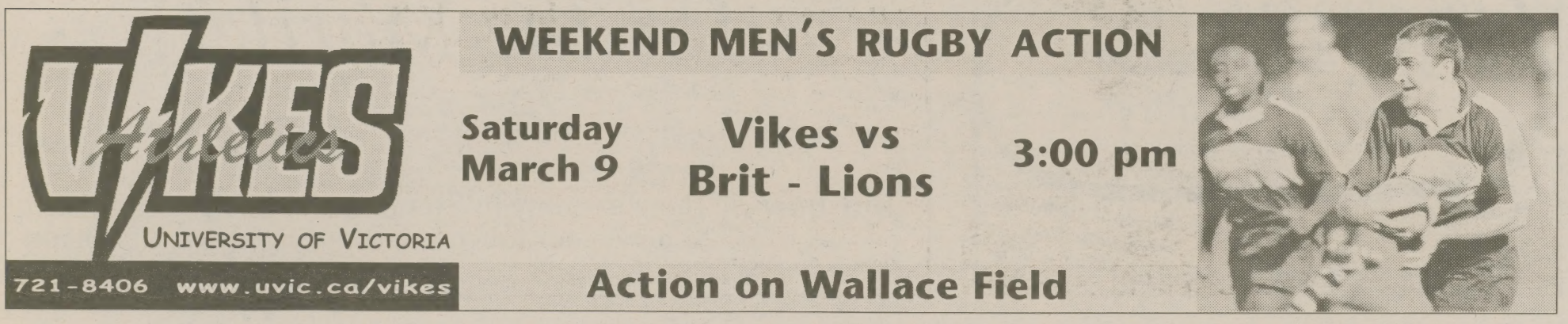
The fact that these events are indoors and on a track, as opposed to outdoors, can have its advantages and disadvantages for the athletes.

"Some of the athletes love running on track, while others are not so fond of it," Fougner said.

Indoor track events differ from outdoor ones for other reasons than running surface, as well. For instance, weather is not a factor.

In addition, the track is only 200 metre long as opposed to the 400 metre track most people are used to seeing in outdoor tournaments. This makes corners and strategies slightly different.

Regardless of those factors, Fougner said, the Vikes hope to be victorious and return home as CIS champions.



Vikes shine at Elk Lake Spring Regatta

by Ryan Crawley

The weather gods smiled on the 29th Annual Elk Lake Spring Regatta this past weekend. In fact, the two-day event featured not only some inspired rowing but also a sunburn or two.

The event featured 56 races in all with over 800 athletes competing.

Saturday's race featured a focus on singles and pairs rowing for the top crews, mixed with some big boats for the less experienced.

The crews from Victoria City Rowing Club and Brentwood College held tight races throughout the day and each emerged with six wins. Brentwood held an edge in the juniors, while VCRC excelled in the masters division.

In the senior competition UVic and Rowing Canada split four wins each.

Sunday's events also saw a number of tight races among the 26 finals.

The Vikes came out on top once again with 12 wins, which made 16 for the weekend. Vic City finished second in overall wins with 13 total, while Brentwood rounded out the top three with 11.

The varsity women's race excited the rowing enthusiasts and various onlookers alike as UBC pressured UVic early. UVic (6.21.07) pushed through in the middle, however, to take the race by a comfortable 4.5 seconds.

The men's varsity eight race received much hype, but in the end the Vikes (5.24.43) proved too strong for UBC (5.32.31) and defeated their cross-water rivals by a comfortable margin.

The light women's doubles was a battle of Vikes as Canadian University champions Lindsay Jennerich and Kate Richards (7.10.51) took a close one over clubmates Lysanne Lavigne and Sheryl Preston (7.12.76), who had gone 1-2 in the single the day before.

The novice men's and women's eights are always a challenge in a crosswind but once the race got started it was all business for the crews.

In the women's race, UBC (6.41.07) jumped out to a three-quarter length lead, but the Vikes (6.36.57) kept their cool. After a flurry of back and forth challenges, UVic rowed through and pulled away for the victory.

The novice men had a tougher go of it. UBC (6.47.20) hung tough until the final push when UVic (6.43.83) took control and punched through for the win.

The closest contest of the day was a dynamite race between Vic City and Brentwood in the junior men's four. The crews battled stroke for stroke down the course until a final surge gave Vic City (6.33.43) the edge by one-tenth of a second.

The Vic City women, not to be outdone, passed up the junior women's eight and took on the Vikes in the junior varsity eights race. The big Vic City crew (6.27.19) put the hammer down on UVic (6.29.29) in the final 100 meters to hold off the challenge for the win.

Brentwood closed out the regatta with three straight wins, which included a victory over Vic City in the junior women's fours (by which avenging the defeat in the men's division). Brentwood (7.48.63) out-sprinted their newfound rivals to pull away for the win.

The junior men's eight was another tight race, with traditional rivals Shawnigan and Brentwood going at each other over the 1,900 meter course.

Brentwood (6.08.71) took yet another close race, pushing out in the final 500 metres for a three-quarter-lenght victory, despite Shawnigan's supreme effort and ressurging team strength.

While the results may not show it, Mainland crews showed up in force at the event.

Although they couldn't break the Island stronghold, they contended in more events than in previous years.

CanWest Final Four

Where the wild things are

by Mark Samcoe

photo provided

Come on. Who would win in a fight? This androgenous Viking or a big dumb old Alberta Golden Bear? This weekend's Canada West championships should tell once and for all.

For the men's Vikes basketball team, this weekend's Canada West Final Four Championship is all about potential energy and children's stories.

Even if they can't bring Victoria's spring constant to Edmonton this weekend, they still have the potential to bring to life Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are* and earn them a berth in the national championship.

Beginning this Frida, the Vikes will get a chance to embody Max, Sendak's wolf-suited protagonist, as they vie with three other schools for a spot in the Canadian Intervarsity Sport Final Eight in Halifax, March 15-17.

Like Max, the Vikes were sent to bed without any supper, two weeks ago in losing the Pacific Division Championship to Simon Fraser. They now travel to a land inhabited by monsters, the University of Alberta, to face the top-seeded, top of the nation hosts, undefeated at home all season.

To complete Max's tale and return home to a bowl of mush, the Vikes must win at least one game. One win gets the Vikes a ride to Nova Scotia. If they can't tame and rule the Golden Bears on Friday, Saturday's consolation final against the loser of the Brandon University - SFU matchup becomes a must-win. The Vikes, who would go for three if they had the shot, will settle for two wins. If they strike twice, that bowl of mush just might taste like another CanWest Championship, their first under the new expanded championship format.

Though hardly comparative to the grandeur of the NCAA's similar namesake, this year's inaugural four team tournament should provide some killer ball. It could also add more mileage to UVic's playoff ride, already gassed up with a Wild Card entry to the tournament.

The Vikes will have to get their stories straight. If they go into Friday's tip-off like Goldilocks, they'll get mauled. These Bears won't turn their backs on the porridge for a second. And they won't give it a chance to cool.

The Vikes will have to be a fired-up Max, unintimidated, by the U of A monsters: CanWest MVP, post Robbie Valpreda, and 1st Team All-Star, Stephen Parker.

The Golden Bears are stacked from their bench down to their warm-up tape. They made the Saskatchewan Huskies look like they belonged in *Snow Dogs*, pulling Cuba Gooding Jr's career further downhill. It will take a phenomenal pot of honey to throw them off their game.

Although the Vikes are a longshot to defend their CanWest title, it's possible they could upset the U of A. Though they were swept by the Golden Bears in their January series, they only lost the first game in the last 10 minutes, running into foul trouble. To win, the Vikes must stand their ground against these Bears. They can't play dead or climb a tree.

The game between the second seed Bobcats and third seed Clan is a tough call.

The Bobcats aren't those small earth-movers that pull sweet 180s but a nationally fourth ranked team of predatory felines. They've made it to the Final Eight 16 consecutive times. You can bet they're hungry, having lost the CIS championship last season in overtime to St.Francis Xavier. With the bobbing and weaving led by All-Stars Tyrone Smith and Joseph Prue, Forward Dido Bunema and the rest of the team will be looking to thank someone for giving them their best day this season: a CanWest championship and berth in Halifax.

SFU has enjoyed mad success in their second season in the CIS, having left the NAIA behind in 2000, and stole the new Pacific Division championship. Led by All-Star shooting guard Jordan Mason they will try to caber toss the Bobcats to the consolation game. Failing, they'll most likely meet the Vikes for another go-round.

Although the Vikes have lost five of seven games to SFU, defeat has most often happened in overtime. Conversely, their wins have been more convincing.

Students at Simon Fraser University campaigned to ditch their school nickname, the Clan. They should switch, before the weekend, the "n" to "m," and become the Clam. If the Vikes meet SFU, you can bet we'll wear our shorts low enough to pass for clamdiggers, because SFU's going in the same direction clams dig, down.

And if the Vikes face the Bobcats, who knows? Brandon's got a storied career in playoff action. They won their former conference seven straight times dating back to '95.

Regardless of who they play, the Vikes will need to go like gangbusters all weekend, with huge contributions from All-Stars Keith Bustard and Sandy Bisaro, as well as CanWest Rookie of the Year, Orlando Fergusson.

In the words of Sendak, "Let the rumpus begin."

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STUDENT VOICE

Reflections on Camp Campbell

by Ben Isitt

Last week, at 6:00 a.m., on the morning of Feb. 28, 2002, police officers descended on the lawns of the British Columbia legislature and dismantled Camp Campbell. Armed with an enforcement order from Attorney General Geoff Plant, they arrested three resisters who peacefully refused to vacate the lawns.

For 22 nights the camp served as a bastion of resistance against the Liberal government. Campers endured rain, wind, sleet, frost and snow in registering their dissent against an untruthful, and therefore illegitimate, government.

Feb. 6 * 11 a.m.

Students, faculty, and university staff leave UVic on a 'Long March Against Tuition Fee Increases.' Picking up students at Camosun College, Lansdowne Junior High, Victoria High School and Central Junior High, the marchers arrive at the legislature at 2:00 p.m., joining approximately 3,000 students and supporters.

Feb. 6 * 3:30 p.m.

Rally-goers march up Government Street, then back up Douglas. As they return to the lawn of the legislature, a group near the front of the march makes a bee-line for the Sequoia tree, erecting a half-dozen tents and a make-shift cooking tent. A group of demonstrators stakes out and ropes off a perimeter fence around the camp. Within 10 minutes, volunteers from the group Food Not Bombs are serving a steaming vat of stew.

Feb. 6 * approx. 7 p.m.

A legislature security officer enters the camp and reads out the Legislative Grounds Protection Regulation. Passed by the Social Credit government in the midst of a 1987 protest, during which a tent camp was set up to oppose uranium mining, the Regulation makes it an offence to reside, camp or sleep in or upon the legislative grounds. Violating the act is punishable by a $500 fine, and violating an officer's order to leave merits a $2000 fine. Despite driving rain and near gale-force winds, Camp Campbell survives through the night and no fines are levied.

Feb. 8 * 4:30 p.m.

Camp Campbell holds a potluck with nearly one hundred community members. One of them brings a steel oil drum and after a brief camp meeting a fire is lit. It will burn for nearly three weeks. Donations of tarps, food, rope, tents, money, clothing and various building and camping materials continues at a steady flow. A James Bay resident donates the contents of her garage to Camp Campbell.

Feb. 9 * 8 p.m.

A Victoria-area high school teacher pitches his tent and camps out at Camp Campbell with his 11-year-old daughter.

Feb. 11 * 3:50 p.m.

Campers converge on B.C. Supreme Court chambers to challenge an application by the government for an injunction against the camp. They have been given an hour notice and appear before Justice Bouck without counsel. This writer, who was supposed to be in a history class before being summoned to court, requests an adjournment from the judge, citing the right to counsel and adequate notice. Judge Bouck denies this request and issues the injunction. Hours earlier the BC Liberals announce the deregulation of tuition fees in British Columbia, breaking yet another election promise.

Feb. 12 * 1:30 p.m.

Camp Campbell holds a regimental march and 'People's Throne Speech,' coinciding with the opening of the B.C. Legislature and the arrival of Lieut.-Governor Iona Campagnolo. With each boom of the canon, demonstrators and campers fall to the ground in agony. Hours after the 'People's Throne Speech' Camp Campbell is served papers requesting the campers, presence at Supreme Court Chambers the next morning, where the Attorney General will apply for an enforcement order on the injunction. Campers meet with several lawyers and draft affidavits on a laptop computer beside the flaming oil drum.

Feb. 13 * 10 a.m.

Campers appear in B.C. Supreme Court Chambers, filing affidavits in their defense as the hearing begins. A lawyer representing the Attorney General begins his presentation to Judge Bouck, but within minutes, a man in a suit rushes into the courtroom and whispers something into the lawyer's ear. The lawyer immediately requests an adjournment. Judge Bouck is caught off guard but grants the lawyer's request. Camp Campbell has won a victory in court.

Feb. 14 * 2 p.m.

Campers file a notice of motion with the Supreme Court Registry, requesting a hearing to have Judge Bouck's injunction set aside. Papers are served to the Ministry of the Attorney General.

Feb. 19 * 2:30 p.m.

The B.C. Legislature is convened, with finance minister and former flight instructor Gary Collins tabling a budget calling for sweeping public service layoffs and funding cuts. Camp Campbell holds a series of mock funerals to commemorate those "murdered by the cuts," planting rows of crosses on the corner of the lawn nearest the Premier's Office. They call their graveyard 'Campbell's Fields.'

Feb. 23 * 12 p.m.

Nearly 25,000 trade unionists and concerned citizens converge on the B.C. Legislature for a rally organized by BCFed of Labour. Banners calling for a General Strike wave proudly and speakers rail against the Liberal agenda. Camp Campbell hosts a vibrant drum circle, packing the 30-foot-high geodesic dome with young people and curious onlookers. As the rally concludes, tents are again erected over the lawn. Camp Campbell has survived and over the course of the rally, ground was broken and a vegetable garden was planted. The carrots are expected to be ready by May.

Feb. 25 * approx. 12 p.m.

The Attorney General serves a notice of hearing to Camp Campbell, requesting campers' presence at an enforcement order hearing on Tuesday, March 5.

Feb. 26 * 3:45 p.m.

Camp Campbell is served court papers, announcing an emergency hearing at the B.C. Supreme Court at 4:30 p.m. Campers attend the hearing without legal counsel and make arguments in their defense. The presiding judge expresses concern over provisions in Judge Bouck's injunction that he says may contravene the Canadian Charter of Rights, but still issues an enforcement order.

Feb. 27 * 9 a.m.

A camper strikes a CBC cameraman in the face. It is the first and only instance of violence at Camp Campbell. The camper claims that he was asleep and that the media worker refused to stop filming. The camper is arrested and several dozen journalists converge on the legislature lawn for the day. A police presence within Camp Campbell is established, with officers and campers engaging in a curiously friendly dialogue.

Feb. 28 * 6 a.m.

Camp Campbell is broken. City workers are brought in to dismantle structures and haul materials off to the dump. Legislature gardeners dig out the vegetable garden and compost heap, preparing the site for its rightful role as a tourist destination. Thank god, those communists are gone.

Camp Campbell is no more. The B.C. Supreme Court has dictated that peaceful dissent is subject to a time limit. Citizens do not have the right to maintain a 24-hour-a-day protest, with necessary infrastructure, to hold an untruthful and violent government to account. Too bad no court injunctions or enforcement orders were issued against Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals. I suppose economic terrorism and perjury in the court of public opinion are lesser crimes than gardening.

BILLBOARDS

ON CAMPUS

Armed with Understanding, an Interactive Lecture Series, presents "The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" with Dr. Martin Bunton (History Dept.) **Thurs. March 7**, 3 p.m. at Cinecenta."The Expanding War on Terrorism vs. Peaceful Options" with Stacey Chappel (VIPIRG) and Al Rycroft (Editor – "Peace, Earth and Justice News"), **Thurs. March 14**, 12:30 p.m. SUB Upper Lounge. All viewpoints welcome and encouraged to facilitate discussion. Bring your questions!

The World University Service of Canada presents two student speakers discussing their two-month project on international development in Viet Nam. Cross-cultural experiences! **Tues. March 12** at 6:30 p.m.in the David Strong (Classroom) Building, Rm. C108. wuscuvic@hotmail.com

Expose yourself to art! Silent art auction: presented by the History in Art Student Society. Michèle Pujol Room in the SUB, **March 12 and 13.**

Groovefest 2002 – get ready to celebrate diversity through the creative arts! Groovefest is **March 23** in Vertigo Nightclub, doors open at 9 p.m. Advance tickets are $10 (more at the door) and go on sale **March 15** at Lyle's Place and the UVSS Info Booth. Buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment and come celebrate!

OFF CAMPUS

Earthmonkey Entertainment presents Revolution on Fri., March 22, at Hush – 1325 Government. Cover $6 before 10 p.m./$8 thereafter. Deejays Czech and Grooverobber. Visit www.earthmonkey.net for more info.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Artists! Submit your work to a silent auction and keep 65 per cent of the profits. Submission dates: **March 4 to 8.** For info please write to historyinart@hotmail.com

I need a home! I am a nice female black cat named Neko. I don't have fleas and have a flea collar. I am fixed and have had my shots. I am healthy. I am three. I come with my very own litter box and feeding bowl. You are a nice human who likes cats. Please call Kevin, my human, at 370-2587.

Out of the Closet and in your Face: an exhibit of photography celebrating lesbian life. The exhibit will take place at UVic in April and we need photography from the community in order to make this a rousing success! Anyone can submit! We really mean that! The photography must include the subject of lesbianism! Get creative, get sexy, and get your submissions in by **March 30.** For more info contact Kaylie at 386-1969 or Valerie at 370-7736 or email submissions@technodyke.com

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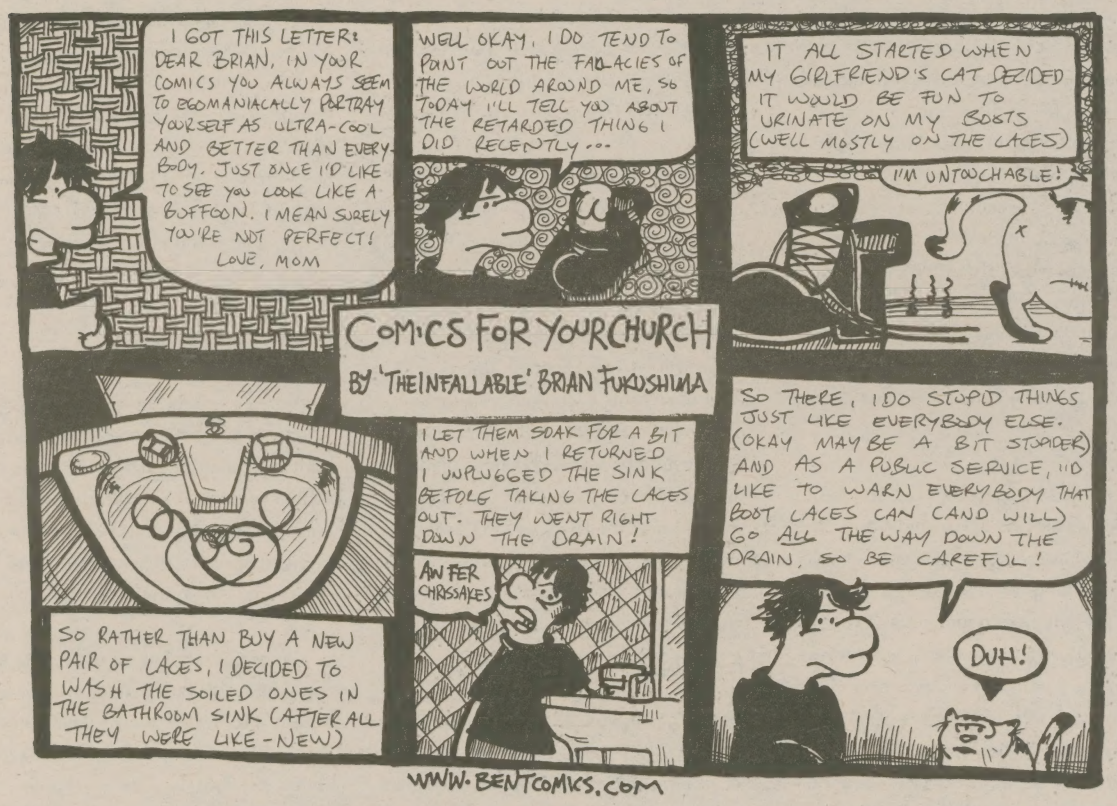
I GOT THIS LETTER: DEAR BRIAN, IN YOUR COMICS YOU ALWAYS SEEM TO EGOMANIACALLY PORTRAY YOURSELF AS ULTRA-COOL AND BETTER THAN EVERY-BODY. JUST ONCE I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU LOOK LIKE A BOFFOON. I MEAN SURELY YOU'RE NOT PERFECT! LOVE, MOM
WELL OKAY, I DO TEND TO POINT OUT THE FALACIES OF THE WORLD AROUND ME, SO TODAY I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THE RETARDED THING I DID RECENTLY...
IT ALL STARTED WHEN MY GIRLFRIEND'S CAT DECIDED IT WOULD BE FUN TO URINATE ON MY BOOTS (WELL MOSTLY ON THE LACES)
I'M UNTOUCHABLE!
COMICS FOR YOURCHURCH
BY 'THE INFALLABLE' BRIAN FUKUSHIMA
SO RATHER THAN BUY A NEW PAIR OF LACES, I DECIDED TO WASH THE SOILED ONES IN THE BATHROOM SINK (AFTER ALL THEY WERE LIKE-NEW)
I LET THEM SOAK FOR A BIT AND WHEN I RETURNED I UNPLUGGED THE SINK BEFOLE TAKING THE LACES OUT. THEY WENT RIGHT DOWN THE DRAIN!
AW FER CHRISSAKES
SO THERE, I DO STUPID THINGS JUST LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE. (OKAY MAYBE A BIT STUPIDER) AND AS A PUBLIC SERVICE, I'D LIKE TO WARN EVERYBODY THAT BOOT LACES CAN CAND WILL) GO ALL THE WAY DOWN THE DRAIN, SO BE CAREFUL!
DUH!

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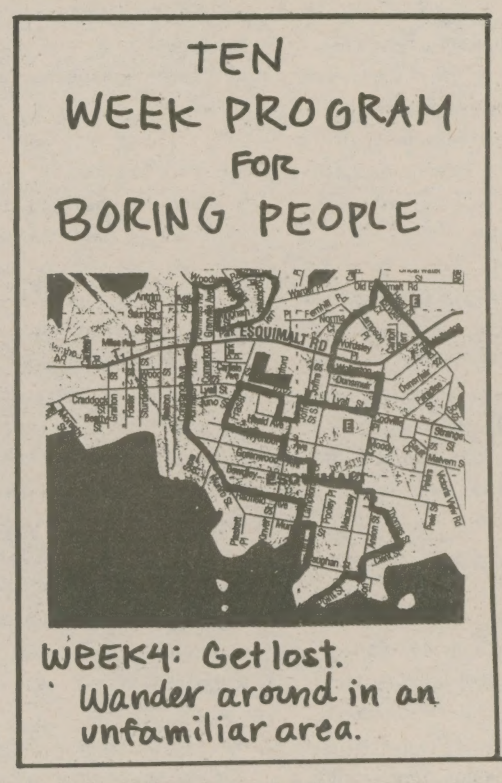
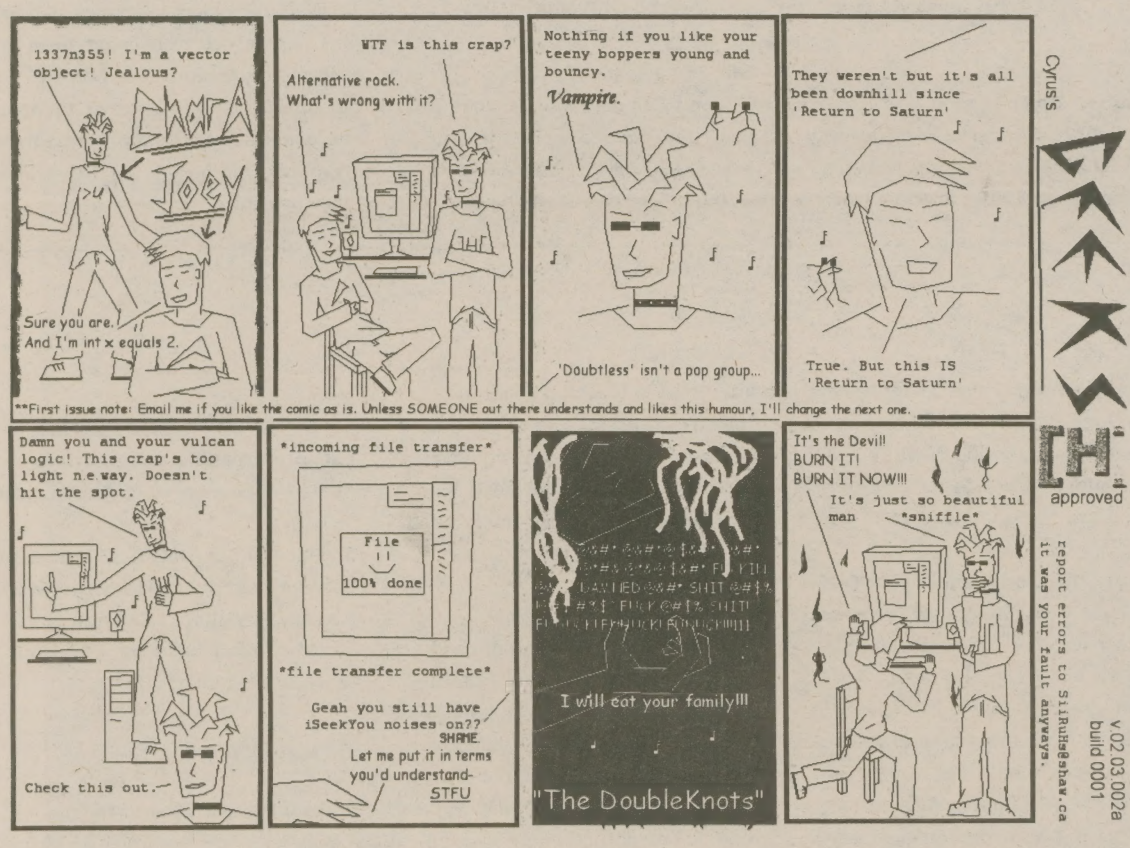
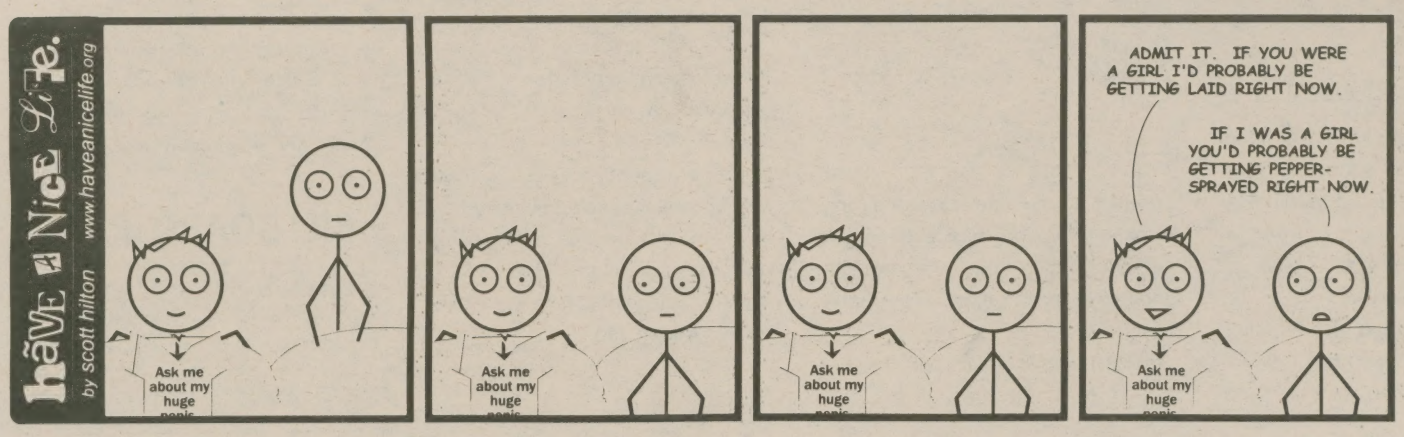
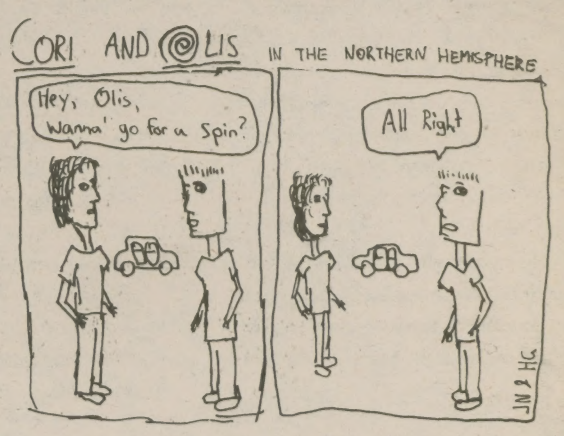
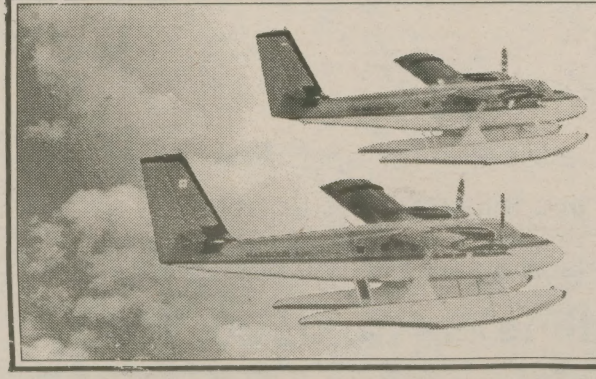



1337n355! I'm a vector object! Jealous?
Chora
Joey
Sure you are. And I'm int x equals 2.
WTF is this crap?
Alternative rock. What's wrong with it?
Nothing if you like your teeny boppers young and bouncy.
Vampire.
'Doubtless' isn't a pop group...
They weren't but it's all been downhill since 'Return to Saturn'
True. But this IS 'Return to Saturn'
Cyrus's
**First issue note: Email me if you like the comic as is. Unless SOMEONE out there understands and likes this humour, I'll change the next one.
Damn you and your vulcan logic! This crap's too light n.e.way. Doesn't hit the spot.
Check this out.
incoming file transfer
File
100% done
file transfer complete
Geah you still have iSeekYou noises on?? SHAME
Let me put it in terms you'd understand- STFU
I will eat your family!!!
"The DoubleKnots"
It's the Devil! BURN IT! BURN IT NOW!!!
It's just so beautiful man *sniffle*
approved
report errors to SirRuhg@shaw.ca it was your fault anyways.
v.02.03.002a build 0001

SAM & FUZZY ©2002 BY SAM LOGAN
AND THAT'S THE STORY OF HOW I BECAME THE OWNER OF A FABULOUSLY LUCRATIVE THING. SO, WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING?
ACTUALLY, I DRIVE A TAXI.
BUT... YOU SPEAK ENGLISH!
sigh NEVER HEARD THAT ONE BEFORE...
DRINK, SAM! DRINK UNTILL YOU'RE ON HIS LEVEL!
GOD, I'VE NEVER BEEN IN A ROOM FULL OF THIS MANY PRETENTIOUS, SELF-SERVING EGOMANIACS. SOMEONE SHOULD BURN THIS PLACE TO THE GROUND.
SWEET!!!
FIGURE OF SPEECH, FUZZY!
OK, I AM SO TRADING YOU TO ANOTHER INMATE FOR A PACK OF CIGARETTES.
esrever@zdoramail.com


have a Nice Life.
by scott hilton www.haveaniceilife.org
Ask me about my huge penis
ADMIT IT. IF YOU WERE A GIRL I'D PROBABLY BE GETTING LAID RIGHT NOW.
IF I WAS A GIRL YOU'D PROBABLY BE GETTING PEPPER-SPRAYED RIGHT NOW.





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